

Midweek Services

Epiphany 6C, 2019

COCU14C

WELCOME and GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the stillness, we find the peace of God.

**In the pausing of prayer, the calm of God prevails.**

In the storm we need not fear  
for God is there beside us  
and faith will be our safeguard.

**God in Jesus Christ,**

**God in the Holy Spirit  
and God our loving parent,  
we worship you this day.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious Spirit, our hearts are held in stillness  
as we wait to find you there.

*a brief silence*

**Guide us to the centre of your life,  
make real your presence among us  
and restore our souls to your peace.**

**Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, there are many times when  
we find it hard to rely on your Spirit.  
It often feels safer for us to thrash around in life,  
running and shouting, panicking and angry,  
instead of waiting in stillness for you to give us peace.  
**Sometimes we really don’t want to be held in your grace.**We would rather fight and struggle,  
find revenge and hold our chaos to ourselves.  
**Forgive us and still our hearts, O God.**

Then, O God, there are storms of our own guilt,  
the shame and remorse which holds us in bondage,  
paralysed by our own failures.  
If we refuse to let you set us free  
and choose to toss and turn in the agony of our humanness:

**Forgive us and still our hearts, O God.**

**Give to us your peace.**

**Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the word to us in Jesus Christ;  
we are restored to life, we are forgiven.  
**Let us respond in faith and take up our lives in thankfulness.  
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS & REFLECTION

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

God of wonder and of grace,  
today we remember those who suffer and are afraid  
in the face of change and uncertainty.  
We think of those who are in places of war and terrorism,  
or who wait in dread for wars which they believe may happen:

*A time for silence, and for naming those for whom we are concerned.*

O God, we know that we may not announce peace where there is no peace,  
but we pray that peace will come to all people,  
peace which is won through reconciling acts  
and peace which is given as a gift deep into the lives of all concerned.  
**Bring peace in our time, loving Jesus.**

Then, loving God, we remember those who long for peace  
in relationships within our own community.  
We think of those who live in fear of prejudice and racism,  
those whose lives are lived in vulnerability on our city streets,  
those whose homes are places of hidden violence and abuse.

Recreate our life together, that through reconciliation, justice and kindness  
just as you give peace to us, we may offer peace to each other.  
**Bring peace in our time, loving Jesus.**

Dear God, we also pray for ourselves.

You know what lies within each of our lives.  
You know the stresses and storms that bring us fear.  
Calm our troubled hearts we pray.  
Fill our souls with faith for the future, O God,  
and give to us your peace which passes human understanding.

**Bring peace in our time, loving Jesus.**

**Amen**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

THE INVITATION

At this table all are welcome.

All are invited to share in the bread and the cup.  
By the power of God’s Holy Spirit,

these gifts shall be for us the body and blood of Christ.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us lift up our hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,  
for it was you who knit together the newborn earth and said,  
“Let light shine out of darkness.” Wonderful are all your works.

In ancient times, you spoke through trustworthy prophets like Isaiah,  
revealing to us your Word and your thoughts.  
How weighty they are, O God! How vast the sum of them.  
  
Now you have revealed yourself in your child, Jesus.  
He made known your grief at our brokenness  
and your desire to feed us with the bread of compassion and mercy.  
When the powerful and hard-hearted conspired against him,  
persecuting him and striking him down, you raised him to new life.  
Now, even when we are afflicted in every way, you shine in our hearts  
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.  
And so we lift our joyful voices, joining with all creation to praise your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

WE REMEMBER THE WORDS OF OUR TRADITION:

On the night that Jesus was betrayed,  
while sharing a meal with his friends he took bread,  
and after giving thanks he broke it and gave it to them saying:

**Take and eat, this is my body given for you.**

**Do this in remembrance of me.**

After supper he took the cup and again, after giving thanks,  
he gave it to his friends, saying:  
**This cup is a new covenant in my blood,  
poured out for you and for all people.  
Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

God of grace and mercy, send to us your Holy Spirit  
that this meal may be a life-giving blessing,  
and that we your people may be one.  
**Unite us in faith, inspire us to love, encourage us to hope,  
that we may encounter Christ as he comes to us in this sacred meal.**

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**The gifts of God for the people of God.**

*Communion is shared*

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

In this meal we find encouragement and strength to go beyond ourselves  
to those who are poor and rich, those who are oppressed and depressed,  
those who suffer and those who are too comfortable.  
**May we find, in sharing ourselves with all your people,  
a sign of the coming reign of God.  
In the name of Christ. Amen**

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

Let us go in peace.

Let us go without fear because the Spirit of Jesus is with us,  
remaining with us wherever we go.

And may our souls be still in the centre which is our God,  
our hearts be warmed by the kindness of the Christ  
and our minds always reach for the truth of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

May the Peace of God be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Passing of the Peace*