**Holy Communion**

As Jesus gathered people on the grassy shore by the lake

Jesus gathers us here today in community.

Young and old,

male and female,

rich and poor,

differently abled

with different ways of being

and at different stages of our faith:

 searching, deepening, growing.

May we be open to the radical teachings of Jesus.

Wherever we are on the journey,

we gather now in community.

 *Alternate gathering:*

 *Wherever we are on the journey,*

 *we gather now in community*

 *and pray that we may be open to the radical love and teaching of Christ.*

Jesus who invites us here invites us to greet each other.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your 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.**

We bring our thanks and praise, O God,

for your generous and all encompassing love.

The promises you offer us are as numerous as the stars in the sky

or the grains of sand in the desert.

In all history your people tell the story of your presence –

sustaining, enriching, enlivening.

On the shores of the lake

Jesus embodied your generous, embracing love

as he fed the multitude with an abundance

which reaches far beyond our understanding.

That same generous love led Jesus to die on the cross

and you raised him from death to life.

Christ continues to feed us with the foretaste of heaven.

In the strength of the Spirit we receive your love

both for ourselves

and for the benefit of all.

And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place

joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation singing/saying:

**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.**

On the edge of a lake

a child gave to Jesus the bread and fish

which Jesus took, blessed, broke and shared.

Later in a room with his friends

the bread was on the table.

Jesus took it, blessed it, broke it, and shared it, saying:

Take this and eat it.

This is my body given for you.

Do this to remember me.

Then after supper

he took the cup,

gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying:

This is a sign of the new promise

poured out for you and for everyone

for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, whenever you drink it,

to remember me.

With this bread and this cup

we do as our Saviour/ Christ commands:

we celebrate his love that saves us from death.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen**

**Christ will come again.**

Pour out the Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine

that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ

and that we may be for you the Body of Christ in the world.

Make us one with him,

one with each other,

and one in ministry in the world

feasting together now and always.

We pray together in the language and traditions our our hearts:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

The bread we break

is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup we take is

a sharing in the life of Christ.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

The Uniting Church has an open table

which means that any one who loves God a little and would like to love God more

or wants to know God is welcome.

**The Sharing**

The Body of Christ, the bread of life given for you.

The life and love of Christ poured out for you in the fruit of the vine.

**Prayer after communion**

Thank you, God,

that we have been fed and nurtured at the table of Christ,

and now you send us out to take the life and love of Jesus

 to the lake,

 to the hillside,

 to the city streets,

 wherever we go. Amen