

Jesus took bread, said thank you, broke it, and gave it to his followers saying:

“Take this and eat it. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me”. After supper, Jesus held the cup, said thank you, and gave it to his followers saying: “Take this and drink it, in remembrance of me”.

In bread and wine we remember the one who died for us and today lives for us. We ask that by your Spirit this bread and wine may become for us your very life. **Amen.**

Communion is shared

Post-Eucharistic Prayer

We thank you for allowing us to join the feast. In the ordinary, you have given us a taste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all people.

May we rise from your table as your people, loving and serving in the world, until your kingdom comes. Amen.

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

Candles are extinguished

May God bless us, on this day and on every day. May God enable us to recognise heaven in the ordinary, and empower us to bring heaven into the ordinary. **Amen!**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

God’s peace be with you. **And also with you.**

The sign of the peace is exchange



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Pilgrim

Uniting Church

Midweek Services

Lent 6

COCU24C

Welcome to this time of worship, of gentle reflection, and caring community.

WELCOME and GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

GATHERING

Let us take a moment to settle into the silence. Hear and feel the quiet of this place. Hear and feel your quiet breathing, the source of our very life. The Jews did not speak God’s name, but breathed it with an open mouth and throat: inhale–*Yah*; exhale–*weh*. By our very breathing we are speaking the name of God and participating in God’s breath. This is our first and our last word as we enter and leave the world. Breathe naturally, slowly, and deeply, inhaling and exhaling *Yah-weh*. Let your focus on the syllables soften and fall away into silence. If a thought, emotion, or sensation arises, observe but don’t latch on to it. Simply return to breathing *Yah-weh*. You may be distracted numerous times. And perhaps your entire practice will be full of sensations clamouring for attention. Contemplation is truly an exercise in humility! But each interruption is yet another opportunity to return to Presence, to conscious participation in God’s life.

A period of silence is kept.

In this quiet hour may our spirits be renewed. May our minds be open to new truth, and our hearts be receptive to love, as we give thanks for this life we are blessed to share.

(Source: E-L Belcher)

There is room in our lives and in our community for the Holy One to dwell. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, whose greatest moments of triumph happen on the back of a donkey's foal and nailed to a bloody cross, We gather to prepare the way for you in our lives and in our world.

There are so many people and things that call for our allegiance so many kings seeking to rule over us. But, you ride into our experience as another kind of King a serving, humble and challenging King who calls us not to slavery, but friendship.

There are so many things that seek our energy and resources for their own sakes so many Kingdoms seeking our souls for their own glory. But, you ride into our experience heralding another kind of Kingdom a Kingdom where the least are the greatest, where the meek inherit the earth and where children are the best example of citizenship. a Kingdom which seeks to bring life, not drain it.

There are so many things that draw our attention. So many realities that seek our faith and assent. But, you ride into our experience revealing another kind of reality a reality where death does not have the last word. a reality where pride, selfishness and evil are defeated by love and self-giving. a reality which does not parade itself for all to see, but fills every moment, every situation and every thing with life, while waiting for us to discover it.

And so, we cry, from our hearts:

Hosanna, Save us.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

(John van de Laar)

BIBLE READINGS AND REFLECTION

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

(prayers are offered) This is my prayer / **this is our prayer**
We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

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.**

COMMUNION

(liturgy adapted from Greenbelt 2007)

Welcome to this meal, where humanity meets God, where heaven becomes ordinary. This is a meal of encounter. An encounter with Christ. An encounter with one another, An encounter with all of humanity. At this meal the servant becomes the host. The host welcomes all - the rich and the poor, the young and the old, the broken and vulnerable. At this table all are equal, All are guests of God at this heavenly banquet. So come and receive. Come you with little faith. Come you with great faith. Come with a desire for deeper faith. Come and receive heaven. Heaven in the bread and wine. Heaven in the ordinary.

God our mother and father,
the source of all, bringing life and vitality, loving, caring and giving.

God, our Saviour, who lived with us,
shared our joy and suffering, and sits at the table with us.

God, the Spirit, the breath of life,
inspiring, challenging, and sustaining us.

We thank you God, three in one

In your compassion and mercy you chose to live among us - a friend, a brother, a teacher, an asylum seeker, a traveller, a prisoner.

Speaking for those who have no voice, shouting against injustice, modelling for us community, teaching us to love one another, to serve one another, to forgive one another.

Sentenced to death, and punished on a cross of pain, experiencing suffering and shame. Christ died, and was raised from the dead, and met again with his friends. He transformed them, and began a movement. Today he remains with us, praying for us.

Transforming God, we thank you.

We do here as generations have done before us and thank you for this bread and wine. In this meal we connect with you, are transformed by you, and receive life.

On the night of his rejection and knowing hatred and betrayal,