

MIDWEEK SERVICE

COCU62C

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

WELCOME and GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

We give you thanks
for all the ways that you bless our lives:
the beauty and abundance of nature,
the love of family and friends,
the joy of knowing you and hearing your word.
Send Your Spirit during this time of worship
so that we might dream your dreams
and see visions of the world as you created it to be.
Guide our thoughts and actions.
Bring us closer to you so that we might do your will
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

(Source: Christopher Ney)

PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE

We turn to God in prayer
not because we are compelled but because God invites us.
We come to God
not because of our righteousness but because of God's grace.
In that spirit, we offer this prayer of confession and unburdening.
Loving God, we know that in every generation
you call forth prophets to proclaim your word.
We give you thanks that you are still speaking even today.
Your Spirit inspires the young to see visions of a new creation
and elders to dream of a time not yet known.
Yet we confess that we fail to hear your voice
when it comes from an unexpected place.
Convinced that we are right,
we miss the Good News of your reconciling love.
Forgive us, God.
Restore us with humility and awaken us anew
to your presence and your promise. *A silence is kept*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The God of creation is a God of mercy.
God is quick to forgive and God's promise of restoration is for all people.
Friends believe the Good News of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! *(Source: Christopher Ney)*

BIBLE READING and REFLECTION

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

So many voices trumpet their greatness,
so many images boast of their beauty,
flaunt their power, squander their wealth;
and all too many of them do so in your name, Jesus.

And here we are in a world which is daily broken
by the foolish arrogance
of men and women just like us;
And so we pray for the healing of humility
to flood every corner of our world:
wherever there is exploitation
and God-imagined people are dehumanised;
wherever there is neglect
and the needs of the poorest are ignored;
wherever there is disdain,
and the sacred value of creatures and earth are denied;
wherever there is violence,
and the gifts of difference and dignity are rejected.
Wherever people are tempted to think of themselves
as better than others,
more worthy, more deserving, more important to you,
may your humility break in and challenge us,
reminding us of our brokenness and need,
and teaching us to serve and to love everyone
with the grace and humility you show toward us. Amen.
(Source: John van de Laar, Sacredise)

A moment of quietness is held as we offer our own silent prayers

These and all our prayers we pray in the name of Jesus:

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, the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

A RESPONSIVE COMMUNION

We come to this table with thankful hearts.

Why do we give thanks at this table?

We give thanks because God has invited us here!

All are invited to share in this simple meal
where the ordinary things of life are filled with the divine.

We come humbly to the table,
knowing that we have not earned our way here,
but are invited, guests at this feast of love.

Why do we eat at this table?

We eat at this table to remember
that on the night before Jesus died, he ate with his friends.

Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it,
he broke it and gave it to them saying,

“Take, eat, is my body given for you.

Each time you do this, remember me.”

Let's pray: God of grace,
give us repentant hearts, forgiving hearts, clean hearts.

With thanksgiving we come to your table.

Send your Spirit upon us so that we know

that all who eat and drink in this place and around the world
are one body, one holy people,
giving thanks to you in an endless song of praise.
Send your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may become for us your life poured out for others,
healing and forgiving and making us whole,
that we may become your body,
loving and caring in your world, until your kingdom comes.

**Thanks be to you Lord Jesus Christ,
who gave your life freely for our salvation.**

[the bread is broken and distributed and eaten]

We take the cup with thankful hearts.

Why do we take the cup at this table?

We drink because that same night Jesus also took a cup,
and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends saying, "Drink this cup.
This cup, poured out for you, is the promise of God.
Whenever you drink it, remember me."

**Thanksto you Lord Jesus Christ,
whogave your life freely for our salvation.**

Our presence at this communion table is a sign.
Hereremember the gift that is Jesus;
the gift of his, his life and his death on the cross.
At this table we celebrate Christ's risen life.

[the cup is distributed]

We have come to this table and eaten the bread of life.
The Holy Spirit will transform us from within
so that we can see with Jesus' eyes,
hear with Jesus' ears, speak with Jesus' mouth,
feel the world as Jesus feels;
to taste and see that the Lord is good.
Go into your week, nourished by the Bread of Life.

BLESSING OF HOPE

So may we know the hope that is not just for someday
but for this day, here, now, in this moment
that opens to us hope not made of wishes
but of substance
hope made of sinew and muscle and bone
hope that has breath and a beating heart
hope that will not keep quiet and be polite
hope that knows how to shout
when it is called for
hope that knows how to sing
when there seems little cause
hope that raises us to life in all its abundance
not someday but this day,
every day, again and again and again.

May it be so!

(Jan Richardson, The Painted Prayerbook, adapted)

WORDS OF MISSION

(candles are extinguished)

Go into the world, renewed in hope and restored by God's vision.
Go into the world to share God's grace and mercy.
Go into the world and proclaim the Good News of what God has done for you.

To that end, may the blessings of God be with you this day and forevermore. Amen.

(Source: Christopher Ney)

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

A sign of the peace is exchanged.