

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The United Methodist Church believes that Holy Communion is a gift of God's unmerited grace for all people. Therefore, all are invited to share in this Holy Meal.

During this time of the pandemic, we commune using Holy Communion kits which contain both the juice and wafer. If you do not have one yet, there are kits available near the ushers' station as you come in to the sanctuary. Please stop by or ask one of the ushers to bring you one. The celebrant pastor will give everyone instructions on how to open the kit and celebrate together. If you prefer a gluten-free option, please feel free to ask one of the ushers for one.

This morning's communion liturgy has been adopted from The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving from [\(http://lectionarylitanies.blogspot.com/\)](http://lectionarylitanies.blogspot.com/)



May 2, 2021

Liturgy for the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Bold Items Are the Congregation's Part

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us bring our hearts to the One who loves us.

We offer them so God may plant fruit-bearing seeds in them.

Lift songs of praise to our God.

We join our hearts and voices in proclaiming, "God is love!"

Almighty God, you created everything that exists

calling forth life out of nothingness,

planting seeds that branched into vines,

pouring clear water into earth's hollows,

crafting us in your imaginative image.

You showed all of this to us, with delight in your heart,

but we did not understand what we were seeing,

and so chose death and sin to be our guides in this life.

Though we loved you last, you loved us first, sending your prophets

to declare all you had done, yet we continued to abide in the tangled briars of temptation. So you sent Jesus to us, the One who would

bear your fruit of salvation and hope for all your children.

With those who seem to intuit your hearts,
with those seeking to understand your hopes,
we lift our songs of thanksgiving to you.

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of prophets and evangelists.

All creation bears fruit in glorifying you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to abide in us.

Hosanna in the highest!

Love is your language of holiness, Branch weaving God,
And Jesus Christ, our Savior is the true Vine of your heart.

When we were wandering lost and alone,

trying to understand what we were doing, he crossed over glory to join us in this journey we know as life. When we could do nothing to prevent our bondage to sin, Jesus came to set us free

On that night, in which he gave himself up for us, willingly and with love, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After eating, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

As we seek to abide in the sacrificial love of that night, as we long to bear fruit in the kingdom, we speak of the mystery known as faith:

Christ died, that we might live through him;

Christ was raised, that he might live through you;

Christ will come, that all might live through eternity with you.

Abide in us at this Table,

Pour out your Spirit on the gifts of the bread and cup,
and on your children gathered in this place.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ

Remind us through the broken bread that you loved us first so that, as we eat of it, we might put the needs of the hungry, the searching, the hurting, the lonely before our own.

Nourish us through the cup of grace so we can go over and join the oppressed and the outcasts, intertwining our branches with theirs, so we all become part of the Vine of justice and of hope.

Then, when we will no longer sleep in death, but be gathered around your Table with our sisters and brothers of all time and places, we will join in singing with one voice and heart, "This is love! In loving one another, we love God. Amen."