

## Celebrating God's Presence at Table with Family and Friends - A Fairlawn Christmas Communion Prayer for Home



Throughout his ministry Jesus ate at table with friends, outcasts, and sinners. In his teachings he used the table as an image of inclusivity, hospitality, and God's in-breaking vision of how things should be. At his last supper with his followers, Jesus initiated the mystery of what we have come to call Communion, simple and profoundly symbolic meal that embodies Jesus' life, his ministry of healing and wholeness, and his selflessness.

The basic shape of Communion has remained remarkably unchanged for millennia, and the simple way of sharing communion that follows below returns Communion to its origins as part of a meal, at home, among family and friends around a table. Feel free to adapt the words to your context. Bread of some kind or something like it, and wine of some kind or something like it, such as grape juice, are all that is required!

# Welcome

This is the place, and this is the time where God comes among us as love. God invites us here, and Jesus is the host – so, we are all welcome!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Giver of every good gift, we gather here, grateful for the gift of this table, and this place; formed by human hands, and filled with your Spirit; this place of healing, love, and shared life.

**We thank you for the gift of this place of gathering.**

We embrace the gift of this time together. We are grateful for these moments gleaned from busy lives, to allow for a brush with eternity in this time of connecting our journeys and experiences.

**We thank you for the gift of this time together.**

We celebrate the gift of each other, joined with you in a community of life and hope, and joyful gratitude. Through our worship, through prayer and song; through the sharing of life and of love we become ourselves - a gift to one another, and to you.

**And we rejoice!**

Because of your love and nurture, we find a safe place in you, O God. You give us your breath and your image; you speak to each of us by name, and wrap us in the warm embrace of your Mother-love.

**We turn to you, O God, and in our living and our doing we long to follow your way.**

Because of your invitation, through prophets and poets, through women and men and children, we've found wholeness in you. In Jesus, we have come upon you as one with us – fully sharing the experience of being human. In Jesus, you have shared our suffering and struggles, our joys and satisfactions, in body, mind, and spirit. In his death you have gifted us with life.

**In his way of living in the world, his courage and his wisdom, we have come to know you with an intimacy that is transforming, and a love that renews us to see ourselves, and others, as you do.**

You have filled us with Jesus' vision of hope and community, which helps us make sense of life. In Jesus you have shown us how each moment of life can become pregnant with the potential for love and healing.

**Enable us to trust that, as we live into the questions of our lives, we will find meaning, and purpose, and hope for us and for the world. Walk with us, as we strive to make what we believe, what we say, and what we do, a single expression of faith. We pray in the name of the one whose life we share. Amen.**

# Breaking the Bread

In a moment that was fraught with tension and anxiety, Jesus gathered with those closest to him to share a meal. Sharing that meal around that table became a living symbol for sharing his life with the world.

First, he lifted some bread and blessed it – Jesus’ words gave it new power: “This is my body, broken so that you may be whole.”

Then, as the meal continued to be shared, he lifted a cup and blessed it – and Jesus’ words transformed its meaning: “This is my life, given so that you may have life.”

As Jesus gave bread and wine to his friends, he gives himself to us in this meal.

In this time of quiet, Spirit God, may this bread, which is broken, become our wholeness. May this cup, which is poured, touch our lips with healing. In this time when we feel the brush of God’s presence in love, may we believe that God’s justice and peace are to be shared with all people; that our hearts can bear the burdens of others; that we may bring joy to the lonely and suffering – for we are not alone. We have shared in this love.

# The Communion

*(Simply break the bread into pieces and serve the person next to you, pass them the cup to drink from. They then serve the person next to them, and so on until all have been served.)*

# Prayer after Communion

**Thank you, God of love, for sharing in this meal with us. Thank you for sharing your life with us, for sharing your love and power to reconcile the divided, to restore the fragmented, and to embrace the rejected. Thank you for giving us a story to inspire out living - the story of a hope that is real when all are welcome and at one, where the world finds its purpose in the song of love that you sing, always. Amen.**



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