

# HolyCommunion – Autumn

## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY IN THE TRADITION OF THE MEAL

### **The Invitation**

Our tradition says at the Last Supper, Jesus, sharing bread and wine,  
invited the disciples to share his journey.

Here today, through bread and wine,  
we renew our journey with Jesus and his disciples.

Here today, through bread and wine,  
we renew our unity with one another,  
and with all those who have gone before us in this place.

Here today, through bread and wine,  
we renew our communion with the earth  
and our interwovenness with the broken ones of the world.

### **The Story**

We are reminded again of the tradition that surrounds this story.  
Long ago, on the night of his arrest,  
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it:  
'This bread is broken, as my body will be'.  
And he handed it to his friends, and invited them to eat:  
'Remember all that I have been to you'.

Long ago, on that same night,  
Jesus poured a cup of wine, offered thanks for it,  
and gave it to his friends:  
'This wine is poured out, as my life will be.  
Remember me and give thanks for all I have given'.

### **Thanksgiving**

God is the heart of life.

All **And we are the heartbeat.**

May our hearts be filled  
with thanks and praise and songs of joy.

All **We rejoice in the miracle of life  
and delight in our participation.** *Sherri Weinberg*

Creating God, Source of Life, we offer our thanks.  
The smell of gums after rain,  
The surprise of ducks in flight,  
The taste of peach and plum and nectarine,  
For all gifts simple and profound, in country and city,  
in paddock, or back yard and on lake:  
We give thanks.

All **We give thanks.**

We who hold all such good things in trust,  
join with others in declaring:

All **Holy! Holy! Holy!  
Heaven and earth are holy and good.**

Holy is peace.

All **Holy is truth. Holy is love.**

In this season of transition  
as the leaves begin their subtle change of colour  
and our hearts cling to the warmth as the days shorten,  
once again we are reminded,  
that new possibilities can rise from our failures  
or disappointments  
or what has come to an end.

We give thanks for all the influences in our lives  
that have helped us to see beyond the present:  
that teach us to combine labour and rest,  
that bring us the cycles of time and season,  
that sustain us when we are in need.

**All God loves in us;  
God cares through us;  
God laughs in us;  
God cries in us, as nowhere else.**

Especially we give thanks for Jesus of Nazareth,  
gatherer of folk,  
teller of stories,  
breaker of bread,  
pourer of wine,  
weaver of lives.

In his life, wisdom, stories and social vision  
we recall the words he spoke  
to call forth in us  
love, care and respect for one another:

**All And we believe the same Spirit of God  
that came to visibility in Jesus  
yearns for visible expression in us.**

#### **Blessing**

So now we take this bread and this wine...  
May they be a constant presence  
of the Spirit of Life and Love  
healing,  
renewing  
and making us whole.

#### **All Together**

**We remember our past.  
Together we discern our present.  
Together we shape our future.**

#### **Bread and Wine**

*The bread is broken... the wine poured, in silence.*  
Bread broken.  
Wine poured out, for the life of the world.

#### **Communion**

So come, taste of this same bread and wine...  
Gifts of the earth.  
Work of human hands.

*Distribution of Bread and White Wine*

#### **After Communion**

May the bread and the wine and the remembering  
be a blessing on us all.

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