

GREEN COMMUNION

Words of explanation

Here in the celebration of the Lord's Supper we bring our weekday and Sunday worlds together. We come in thanksgiving for everything that God has accomplished in creation, redemption and in his transforming love.

Here we participate in God's mission in and for the world and commit ourselves to see this participation take shape in the proclamation of the Gospel through our relationships with God, our neighbours and the environment.

Here in Christ, in broken bread and poured wine we experience God's identification with the created world and with our lives. We are invited to share in God's care for one another and for all God's good creation. We are one in Christ, together and individually; the bread is broken and the cup shared, and taken into individual bodies. We share the one loaf and the gathering church becomes the scattered church – taking Christ out into the world, where in our different places we all together make up the body of Christ, a kingdom of priests – we are Christ in and for the world, caring for creation and each human life.

Prayer of preparation

Creator God we praise you for all that you have revealed of yourself.

Billions of galaxies with billions of stars, yet you know everyone by name and you call them into existence.

Million upon million of species of animals, yet not a single sparrow falls to the ground without your knowledge and care.

Plants in almost infinite variety, and not even Solomon's royal robes were a match for the wild flowers of the hedgerow.

Billions of human beings in every corner of this earth, yet you know the number of hairs on each of our heads.

We praise you our God for all that you have revealed of your power, your faithfulness, and your love – in creation, in our lives, and especially in Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray.

Creating God, we thank you for the variety and beauty of creation;

Saving God, we thank you for the depth of your love and mercy in Christ;

Living God, we thank you for the purpose that you have for your church and for each human

life, and for your presence to guide, guard and hold.

With our praise and thanksgiving we bring our confession.

Creator God, we ignore your generous provision in nature and behave in a selfish way. We have turned green fields into deserts, cut down rain forests, polluted rivers, poisoned the air and the seas, and we have brought judgment upon ourselves. Many people have too little to eat, the earth groans and has its life destroyed.

We confess that we have not cared for your world. We are not the people you want us to be;

we are not the people we would like others to think we are; we are afraid to admit even to ourselves what lies in the depth of our mind and heart.

Yet you do not want us to hide ourselves from you, and in Christ you meet us and speak your words of life: *Your sins are forgiven. I have come that you may have life, life in all its fullness.*

Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Words of preparation

We join together in worship. We receive forgiveness, joy, healing and reconciliation and retell the story of God's creating, redeeming and liberating love.

Creating. John 1:1–4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all people.

We celebrate the abundance of your created gifts. In bread and wine we bring our common life into your presence with the common creation tasks of ploughing, sowing, reaping, pressing and threshing to make bread and wine. May we live lives that express our thanksgiving for your creative love.

Redeeming. John 3:16–17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Before you Lord Jesus we come with sadness to confess and in joy to receive forgiveness.

Through these material signs and symbols of water, bread, and wine, together with acts of peacemaking and reconciliation you shape our community and enable us to witness your love to the world. In our lives may we be channels of your redemptive love.

Liberating. John 8:31–32

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 16:13–15

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

Life-giving Spirit we seek your power and presence to help us to care for creation, to live more simply, to use less of the earth's resources, and to work for justice and the equal sharing of God's bounteous creation gifts with all people of all nations. Help us to witness to your liberating love.

Words of sharing

One body, one loaf, one fellowship of your people.

Feed us, and through us feed your world

The body of Christ is given for you

One flesh, one cup, one covenant sealed in your blood

Forgive and refresh us, and through us bring your message of sins forgiven to the world

The blood of Christ keep us in eternal life

Dismissal

Deny self, take up the sacrificial, cross-shaped life, and follow Christ.

John 20:21-22

Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

May the faith of Christ instruct and strengthen our thinking and speaking;

May the love of Christ enrich and guard our relationships; and

May the hope of Christ encourage us and underpin our living, until he comes or calls and

then for evermore. Amen