

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

By Rev. Michelle Torigian



One: On this day, we celebrate the risen Christ

Many: On this day, we celebrate resurrection in our lives.

One: On this day, we embrace the grace which reaches from the tomb.

Many: On this day, we embrace faith by committing to love in action.

One: On this day, we shout Hallelujah!

Many: On this day we shout, Christ is risen! Alleluia!

One: It is through our neighbors and creation that we see the rising of Christ, O God.

Creator of Our Earth: We celebrate the shifting of seasons from one to the next. As the earth sheds its snow, it begins to drink in the warm rains and creation comes alive once again.

And so in this spirit of brightness and life, we celebrate. We celebrate the risen Christ in our midst. We celebrate the table in which we can join together with friends and strangers, loved ones and enemies.

Through this meal which has stood the test of time, we covenant to love you, God. We covenant to love as Jesus the Christ loved us- loving our neighbors as ourselves. Through a simple meal of grain and grape, we, your children, unite.

As we enter this season of Easter, we ask that the warm winds of the Spirit encircle this table and accompany us on our journey. May this Spirit help us to recognize the Christ-presence in our midst. May the Spirit open our souls in order for us to see humanity, God and creation through the eyes of Jesus.

It was Jesus who introduced this meal to his followers. Even though Jesus knew he would be betrayed and deserted by those at this supper, he still continued to join them at the table, sharing time and space with whom he grew closest.

As the night lengthened, Jesus took a simple portion of bread. He blessed it and broke it, and shared it with the disciples. He urged them: *Remember me.*

Afterwards, Jesus took the cup. During his blessing, Jesus reminded them how he would go to the ends of the earth in his love for them.

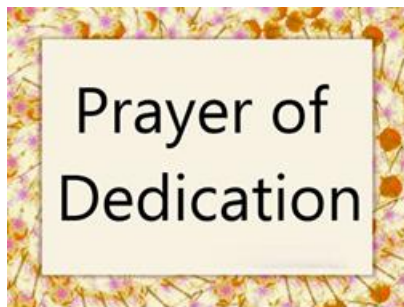
Today, we celebrate this earth-shaking love of Jesus – a love that sent him to the cross and a love that lives eternally with us, encouraging us to live a resurrected life.

**The Bread of Life and the Cup of the Covenant:
Gifts to unite the Body of Christ.**

Distribution of Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Through this space and time together today, we celebrate the covenant that ties us with God, Jesus the Christ, our neighbors and creation. Thank you, Divine Crafter of the Table, for fashioning us a holy meal unites us with the Body of Christ. Send us into the world resurrected, refreshed and ready to share Christ's unconditional love. Amen.



Risen Christ, bring resurrection hope through these gifts we now bring! May they become signs of new life, and symbols of hope for a hurting world – a world yearning for the life-giving power of your saving love. Amen.

Holy Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith, Reception into the United Methodist Church, Reception into a Local Congregation

Pastor: Siblings in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price. Through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.

Pat McKee: I present Nicholas McMillan to reaffirm his faith and to become a professing member of Highland Avenue UMC.

Pastor: On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: According to the grace given to you, will you remain a faithful member of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representative in the world?

Candidate: I will.

Pastor (to the congregation): Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

Congregation: **We do.**

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this person now before you in your care?

Congregation: **With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Nicholas with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his trust of God, and be found faithful in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Pastor: Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. (p. 881)

Everyone: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: As a member of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

Candidate: I will.

Pastor: As a member of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

Candidate: I will.

Pastor (to the congregation): Members of the household of God, I commend this person to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

Congregation: **We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: The God of all grace who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

(We welcome our new member and sibling in Christ!)

