

A Communion Service from URC version 1
2023

Welcome & candle lighting

Today, we light our candles to show that God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is with us now.

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **Grace to you and peace.**

Leader: Christ has brought us from death to life

All: **To live in his glorious hope.**

Hymn: Guide me O thou great Redeemer

God our source and guide and goal: you have made us in your image and set us in a world full of beauty; you dwell in light unapproachable, yet you have come to be among us, full of grace and truth; you are the power from on high, coming in wind and flame to work your wonders in our midst. Gracious God, awaken us from sleep that we may worship you in spirit and in truth: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession

In a dark and disfigured world, we have not held out the light of life: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

In a hungry and despairing world we have failed to share our bread: Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

In a cold and loveless world we have kept the love of God to ourselves: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Assurance of Pardon

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Peruvian Gloria

Reading: 2 Peter 1.16-21

Hymn: You are the King of Glory

Reading: Matthew 17. 1-9

Collection with dedication.

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer, and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Talk-

Let us declare our faith in God

Christ Jesus was in the form of God, Yet he laid no claim to equality with God, But made himself nothing, assuming the form of a slave.

Bearing the human likeness. Sharing the human lot, He humbled himself, and was obedient, Even to the point of death. Death on a cross!

Therefore God raised him to the heights, And bestowed on him the name above all names, That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow - In heaven, on earth and in the depths - And every tongue acclaim "Jesus Christ is Lord", To the glory of God the Father.

Our prayers of Intercession, ending with the Lord's prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Peace

Jesus told his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not just me but the one who sent me.'

Let us greet one another with a sign of peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you

Hymn : Christ be our light

Collection with dedication.

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer, and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Celebration of Communion

As we gather at this table, we remember that Jesus was born of Mary; he lived our common life on earth; he suffered and died for us; on the third day God raised him from the dead; and he is always present with us through the Holy Spirit. In his presence, and in the company of all the people of God, past, present, and to come, we celebrate the Supper of the Lord.

We hear the narrative of the Institution of the Lord's Supper as it is recorded by St Paul in I Corinthians Chapter 11

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me'. In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Thanksgiving

God is with us! **God is with us!**

We give thanks and praise to God!

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Loving God, the world you made is beautiful and full of wonder. You made us, with all your creatures, and you love all that you have made. You gave us the words of your prophets, the stories of your people through the generations, and the gathered wisdom of many years.

You gave us Jesus, your Son, to be born and to grow up in difficult times when there was little peace. He embraced people with your love and told stories to change us all. He healed those in pain and brought to life those who had lost hope. He made friends with anyone who would listen and loved even his enemies. For these things, he suffered. For these things, he died. And he was raised from death and lives with you forever. You give us your Holy Spirit, to teach and to strengthen us, to remind us of Jesus Christ, and to make us one in him.

For all these gifts we thank you, and we join with all your people on earth and in heaven, in joyful praise:

Hosanna! **Hosanna!**

We praise you that we are here today, around the table of Jesus. We have heard the good news of your love; the cross is the sign of your arms stretched out in love for us and the empty tomb declares your love stronger than death.

Christ has died!

Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

Christ will come again!

Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine, and upon your people, that Christ may be with us, and we may be made ready to live for you and to do what you ask of us, today, and every day to come. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, in the love of the Creator, one God, to whom be glory and praise forever, **Amen.**

Eat this bread. It is the bread of life.

Drink this wine. It is the cup of blessing.

The distribution takes place (Remember to invite those at home to share with us)

We share the bread and wine.

Hymn during Communion: **Here in this place**

Thanksgiving Prayer

Thanks be to God for this gift beyond words.

All: **Thanks be to God for this gift beyond words**

Notices]

Hymn: Lord the light of your love is shining

Blessing

Jesus said, 'Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you.'

The blessing of God be upon you, the One who loves you, the Christ who calls you, the Spirit who makes you holy, today and always. **Amen**