

ADVENT HOLY COMMUNION

Today, we are going to have the special Advent Holy Communion liturgy developed by Rev. Bob Root and Rev. Richard Bott. It will include singing the verses of Hymn **VII # 1**, please, remain seated as we sing these single verses during the liturgy.

An Advent Invitation to Communion:

Leader: All journeys begin with careful preparation:

what to take, what to leave behind, thoughts of who we will meet along the way and what we will see.

Our journey today to the manger begins with careful preparations made on our behalf:

bread and wine made ready that we might have food that lasts as we venture out in faith once more, knowing where we want to go but not sure how we will get there.

And so, we come to the table:

A place of welcome and hospitality for all.

It is a table for those who are just beginning the journey, as well as for those well along its dusty pathways.

It is for those who are clear about their direction, as well as for those who are putting one foot in front of the other, not sure where they are going.

It is for those of great faith and those who struggle to have any at all.

It is for each of us and for all of us together.

And we are welcome here because we gather at Christ's invitation.

So come to his table and set your sights on Bethlehem.

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Great Thanksgiving:

Leader: God is with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God


People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

 **Hymn** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” * **VU # 1** - Verse 1

Leader: God, Most Holy, we do give thanks as we gather at Christ’s table, as we remember your love, holy and whole, a love that has held us from the beginning of the beginning, and a love that will hold us for as long as time exists.

 **Hymn** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” * **VU # 1** - Verse 2

Leader: We need your Wisdom, God. We need your guidance. We need your invitation – your calling – your whispers and your shouts – through the voices of prophets and priest, grandmothers and grandfathers, children and infants, all who listen and speak your love.

 **Hymn** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” * **VU # 1** - Verse 3

Leader: Because we didn’t always listen, because we don’t always listen; you gave to us Christ, alive in the world!

 **Hymn** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” * **VU # 1** - Verse 4&5

Leader: Wholly God and wholly human, a tiny baby, a youth an adult, a teacher, a healer, a challenger, a Saviour; He laughed with those who laughed and cried with those who cried, but most of all he loved us with a love that never, ever ends,

A love that surpasses even death, a love that brings new life – not only to us ... but to all creation! Hallelujah!

 **Hymn** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” * **VU # 1** - Verse 6

Leader: On the night before he was taken to his death on a cross, Jesus gathered with his disciples.

Well...he gathered with his friends. He shared with them a meal of remembrance and freedom. After an act of utmost humility and hospitality – washing their feet – he blessed the bread and broke it saying:

“Take this and eat it. This is my body given for you. Each time you eat bread, remember me.”

As the meal drew to a close, he blessed a cup of wine and passed it onto them, saying:

“Take this and drink it. This is my promise in my life’s blood that sins are forgiven. Each time you drink, remember me.”

So, we eat, we drink, and we remember!

Holy God, send your Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts, that they – and we – might truly be Christ’s body and blood alive in the world!

People: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever. Amen

 **Hymn** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” * **VU # 1** - Verse 7

Leader: We pray all these things to you, God – Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer – because we know that you are like a mother who gives us life. You are like...

Our Father, who art in heaven... hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD / LIFTING UP OF THE CUP

Leader: The gifts of God, for all Creation!

People: Thanks be to God!

Prayer after Communion:

**With this taste of the bread of Life,
with this taste of the cup of Love,
send us into the world, God –
so that we might whisper your coming,
so that we might sing your Advent,
so that we might live your birth, now and forever. Amen**

Written by Richard Bott; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany