

A Service of Communion
(*Mary and Martha*)

Invitation:

You are invited like Mary to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn from him. You are invited like Martha to bring before the Lord the gifts of your labor as your faithful worship. You are invited to be yourself, to answer your own call with devotion and to encourage others to do the same. Come as you are to give and receive from the Lord. Amen.

Confession:

Lord, you give to each of us our own unique callings, wanting us to embrace opportunities as only we can, for you. Too often we have judged others for following you and not us. Forgive us for the times we became angry with others whom you called to serve differently. Forgive us for not encouraging others when their calling was different from our own. Help us to celebrate with them and surround them with our prayers of intercession. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. God still wants you. God still needs you. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Yes! The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. God wants and needs you too. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We are grateful for your invitation.

You have called each of us to serve you.

You have given us diverse tasks to complete to express your love for the world.

You reveal yourself to everyone in uniquely intimate ways,
perfectly matched to their personalities and to the needs of those around them.

Your disciples, Mary and Martha each had different callings,
each responded in their own ways,

each sought to express to you their deep devotion,

each doing so very differently.

You were thankful for both, as they both chose to respond to your call.

Stir in our hearts a resounding joy as we behold the inspiring variety of your callings.

Thank you that people do not have to respond to you in only one way.
Thank you for the harmonies you create through our differences.
You do not need us all to be the same.
You do not want us to share a monotone.
You seek to bask in the symphony of praise as all those in heaven and on earth
join their heartfelt unceasing worship, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are all who come in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

You are unique, individual, one of a kind, and so is Jesus.
No one is like Jesus, and that pleases you.
Every person Jesus called was one of a kind,
with a calling all their own, as they each worked out their salvation with awe-filled excitement.
Jesus did not call just one type of person:
Disciples did and do fill the whole spectrum of genders and sexualities.
Disciples did and do express a full spectrum of cultures and languages.
Disciples did and do embody an expansive spectrum of political, theological, and lived
experiences.
Being who we are before You will not be taken from us.
You celebrated Mary.
You celebrated Martha and you celebrate us.

Jesus' mission was to serve and not to be served by others.
It should have been no surprise when he arose,
took up the basin and towel and took a servant's role to wash feet.
Jesus expects us to fulfill our callings too.

Jesus' mission was to serve and not to be served by others.
With thanksgiving Jesus took the bread of Passover.
This bread was set apart as a remembrance of God gift of deliverance from bondage.
Jesus broke the bread, sharing it with all:
"Take and eat, for this is my body broken and given for each one of you."
Jesus expects us to fulfill our callings too.

Jesus' mission was to serve and not to be served by others.
With thanksgiving Jesus lifted up the cup of Passover wine.
This wine was set apart as a remembrance of the high price God pays for deliverance.
Jesus shared the cup with all:
"Drink all of you, for this is the cup of my blood which is poured out in thanksgiving for God's
eternal covenant of grace guaranteeing the forgiveness not only of our sins, but the sins of the
whole world."
Jesus expects us to fulfill our callings too.

God has placed a calling upon our hearts.
It is a task no one else can do for the salvation of others.
We choose now to dedicate our lives to follow our call,
just as Jesus did through this holy mystery we now declare:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Creative Calling, Dynamic Diversity
inundate these gifts of bread and wine with fresh meaning
as they become for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ
the blessing, that will not be taken away.

Creative Calling, Dynamic Diversity
inundate the gift of our lives, our callings, our gifts, our uniqueness, with fresh meaning
as they become for others, your church,
the sacrificial body and devoted bride of Christ
the blessing, that will not be taken away.

Creative Calling, Dynamic Diversity
empower this United Methodist congregation
to fulfill its irreplaceable calling in this community.
Knit together their unique blend of personalities and talents to do your will.
Bless them to be the blessing you want them to become for the world.

We ask this with Christ, for Christ, through Christ
empowered by the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit
as we seek to be in unity with our imaginative and creative God
who is continually making all things new, even us.
May this God receive our honor, our glory and our worship forever. Amen.

Now as those called of God, let us pray as holy disciples of Jesus Christ:
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. Amen.

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you for sharing with us this holy mystery found in Jesus Christ. At this table
Christ has reminded us of Your sacred calling upon each of our lives and of the wide diversity of
needs you seek to address in this world. Send us out as your disciples, called in your name to
become your good news in this needy world. Use us to bring peace and healing, wholeness and
reconciliation in Jesus' name. Amen.