

Service of Holy Communion  
(Care of the Sojourner and Stranger)

Invitation:

One: This table is open to all who have found their way here. No one will be excluded from this divine care. This table is a sanctuary for all who call upon the name of the Lord seeking safety. Come and find shelter, and a fellowship meal.

Confession:

**All: We admit that we are afraid. We are afraid of strangers; those we don't understand; and who may see the world differently than we do. We confess that our love is not perfect yet. We find it difficult to emulate your generosity and fearless openness. We have built walls around our hearts, our lives, and we fear loss. Deepen our love. Help us follow your example as we seek to embrace the whole world and sacrifice ourselves, to give to others the abundant lives you promise. Hear our prayer as students of your gospel and followers of Christ. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

One: All of you have received a spirit of adoption. This very Spirit of God bears witness with your spirit that you are joint heirs with Christ himself. You are now family, forgiven by the gracious love of Jesus Christ.

**All: You too have received this spirit of adoption. The very Spirit of God also bears witness with your spirit that you are a joint heir with Christ himself. You are family too, forgiven by the gracious love of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!**

Great Thanksgiving:

One: God provides for the sojourner and the stranger.

**All: We are to treat them, and all, with hospitality and mercy.**

One: God empowers us to be generous with all we find in need.

**All: We never need to turn anyone away.**

One: This graciousness causes everyone it touches to shout for joy.

**All: Bathed in these divine mercies we declare our praise.**

One: We are bathed in your mercy.

Your great compassion is extended to all who are in need.

Your strength is given to each of us in our weak.

Your respite given to all who are weary of their emotional and physical burdens.

No one is turned away from your abundance.

No one is turned away empty handed,

for your blessings belong to all,

your fullness, pressed down, and overflowing.

Out of this, your abundance of blessings,  
we are enabled to be just as generous as you are with us.

We join together with your beloved community gathered from the east and the west, the north and the south to rejoice in your goodness as one family, and with all the hosts of heaven to proclaim:

**All: Generous, Compassionate, full of mercy is the one who created everyone.  
Those in heaven and all of us on earth reflect your presence.  
Blessed are those we touch with your love.  
May your salvation be experienced by all.**

One: You are Generous, Compassionate, and merciful,  
and You have expressed these graces through Jesus Christ.  
Jesus fed the hungry.

**All: And so shall we.**

One: Jesus met the needs of foreigners.

**All: And so shall we.**

One: Jesus cared for the families of his enemies.

**All: And so shall we.**

One: Jesus showed compassion to sojourners and strangers.

**All: And so shall we.**

One: Jesus washed the feet of deniers, betrayers, and cowards.

**All: And so shall we.**

One: Jesus celebrated the Passover,  
blessing the bread, recalling your care for the needs of the oppressed,  
as he broke it he shared it with those present saying:  
“You are encouraged to eat, for this is my body, broken and given for you.”

**All: We too remember their plight of the oppressed.**

One: Jesus celebrated the Passover,  
blessing the wine he poured, recalling sin hardened hearts,  
as he shared this cup with those present saying:  
“You are encourage to drink, this cup is my blood,  
poured out in sacrifice as a testimony to the power of God’s eternal covenant,  
proclaiming the good news of forgiveness, not only to us but to the whole world.”

**All: We too remember our sin hardened hearts.**

One: We do remember how God  
treated us when we were  
sojourners and strangers.  
And we celebrate the Gospel of Jesus  
with all the world as we proclaim together:

**All: Christ died on a cross.**

**Christ arose from the tomb.**

**Christ lives forever in victory over sin and death.**

One: Sojourner, Stranger, Rejected by our world;  
rest upon these gifts of bread and wine,

your presence makes them to be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
Immanuel, God with us.

Sojourner, Stranger, Rejected by our world;  
rest upon the gift of our mercy, generosity, and grace,  
your presence make them for the world your church,  
the sacrificed body and faithful bride of Christ,  
Immanuel, God with us.

Sojourner, Stranger, Rejected by our world;  
rest upon the United Methodist Church around the world and within our communities.  
Open the doors of your church to provide a sanctuary to sojourners and strangers,  
the unhoused and all those fleeing violence at home and abroad.  
Open the shared purse of your disciples to provide sustenance for those who are hungry,  
cold, lost and alone.  
Open the hearts of your people to deepen their concerns for those struggling around them  
and fill them with your compassion and mercy for all.

**All: We ask this so we might reflect the presence of Jesus in our world.  
We ask this so we might bear all the fruits of the Spirit, your gift to our world.  
We ask to be used as your voice, your hands and feet, most divine Love.  
We hope that our lives will forever bring to our God, love, honor, glory and praise.  
Amen.**

One: Now let us pray according to the pattern given to us by Jesus:

**All: God of the refugee, the migrant, the stranger, and every foreigner,  
Compassion is your Name.  
May your mercy be shared, your grace and your care, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Provide for us every day, the food and shelter we need and enough to share with  
others.**

**Forgive the sins we commit against others,  
with the same willingness we show when we forgive every sin  
others have committed against us.  
Give us the courage not to not be self-centered,  
but the freedom to be generous with all who are in need.  
For you are compassionate, merciful, and kind to all. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

**All: We rejoice with you in being brought together to celebrate this holy mystery. You  
have opened our hearts and lives to your generous spirit and your compassionate  
heart. Now send us out to welcome the stranger, the released captives, and all those  
you have set free to find safety at our doors. May all find the same saving grace, we  
have found in the Christ who has welcomed all. Amen.**