

Service of Holy Communion for the eighth Sunday after Pentecost
(*Foolishness*)

Invitation:

One: Come and leave it all behind: your wealth, your achievements, your honors, and all your pride. You cannot take any of it with you, so come as you are and receive something worth so much more, the presence of Christ.

Confession:

All: We see it now, it is all just dust and ashes, a puff of wind. All we have striven after is but vanity. No matter the size of our nest egg, it will all be left behind, nothing but wood, hay, and stubble before your eyes. Reveal to us all that is precious in your sight, that which you give lasting value, your pearl of great price. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

One: Come, you who are blessed by God, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Come, you too are blessed by God, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundations of the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanksgiving:

One: We reject the world's foolishness!

All: But won't we look like a foolish mess?

One: God sees foolishness here and there.

All: God sees our foolishness everywhere.

One: With joy we follow God's narrow way.

All: We will embrace new foolish ways.

One: So we will praise you from this day,
No matter what other fools say.
We will now give our lives away,
meeting needs quickly, now, right away.
We will speak your words of grace
to those who hate us to our face.
We will do your acts so kind,
So there will be none left behind.

Fools hold on to their silver and gold
we believers are not so bold.

It's to God's praise, we give all away,
to bless each life in some small way.

**All: We are no fools, we claim today
Our treasure 's found in jars of clay.
Not that which crumbles into dust,
nor stolen away nor turned to rust.**

One: In Christ's foolishness, we trust.
So emptying ourselves is now a must.
Gathering into barns is such a crime,
Christ says be generous, now's the time.
Reach out now to heal the sick,
Now is the time for kind words, and to be quick.
We have a cross to carry this time,
with forgiveness and mercy, Christ glory will shine.

Now there are feet to wash
and angry battles to quash.
Christ calls us to peace and it is that we shall bring,
Enveloping our world with grace, causing hearts to sing.

There was something foolish about taking the bread
Praying, and breaking and sharing, Christ said.
"Eat it, It me, I'm broken for you."
Now go and be foolishly broken now, too.

There was more foolishness that comes with the wine
Praying and pouring, and sharing, this time.
"Drink it, It's me, this cup of my blood
The price of salvation, new life in full bud.

**All: God's foolishness is truly wisdom:
Love, joy, a peaceable kingdom,
Death and life, leaving, coming again,
to clean the world of every sin.**

One: Come now in this foolish time
blessing this common bread and wine
body and blood subtly arranged
and now our lives are profoundly changed.

Come now foolish as it seems
bless our lives with every means.
Let the world your church now see
Christ and bride forever be.

Come now with foolishness bless
The Choptank Charge for we're a mess.
Out of us your blessings grow.
Christ presence we will bestow,
grace to strangers, enemies, friends
and a paradise that shall never end.

**All: Hear us Jesus as we pray,
Through the Spirit everyday.
Hear us prayers Creator now,
as we worship you and bow. Amen.**

One: Let us join our hearts to pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

**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 our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Prayer After Communion:

All: Thank you for inviting us to share in this holy mystery found in Jesus Christ. We know that to the world it seems like foolishness, but to us it is a source of divine grace and healing for our souls. So now send us out to look and sound, foolish. Send us out to share your good news of mercy, joy and grace as fools for Christ. Amen.