

Holy Communion  
(Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost - Experimental)

Invitation:

One: Come, because Jesus was never bound by tradition. Jesus was always ready to try something new. Jesus was always ready to turn everything upside down, this is how Jesus can invite everyone to his table: no matter who you are; no matter what you believe at the moment, no matter what you have done, where you have been or where you might believe you are going. Breaking with very old traditions, Jesus invites all to his table, so come enjoy his hospitality.

Confession:

**All: We admit that we find comfort in our traditions. We do struggle with change, and at times long for days long past. We resist Your invitation to experiment with new ideas, new rituals, fresh expressions of our faith. Yet time and again You invite us to be creative, to use our imaginations, to even do a new thing. At times we even fight to resist the sacred dance of evolution, foolishly hoping that everything can stay the same. Give us the courage to be more like You, believing the sky is the limit for what You will do next. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

One: The old you has passed away, God is giving you a blank canvas, a fresh start. You are forgiven, embrace your new life in Jesus Christ!

**All: The old you is gone too, God has given you a blank canvas, a fresh start. You are forgiven, embrace your new life in Jesus Christ! May I be so.**

Great Thanksgiving:

One: By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, God has cut us loose;

**All: Filling our heads with wild dreams and outrageous visions.**

One: We are being encouraged to be creative,

**All: Seeing a world filled with fresh possibilities and new opportunities.**

One: We have the joy of walking by faith away from old traditions.

**All: Our new wineskins are full, and we are satisfied.**

One: We have found You full of surprises:

what was said in the past, was only the beginning of Your conversation.  
It was never the end.

You encourage us to paint with colors never seen before,

to sing a new song,

to add the next verse,

to even invent new words, ideas, and concepts to declare God's glory.

You delight when we experiment,

when we learn new ideas,

improvising new dance steps,

developing new intricate rhythms of praise.

You encourage us to collaborate with other cultures,

other languages, other world views.

Together we invent new ways to worship and praise You  
just like those in heaven, singing:

**All:**

(Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle)

**Joyful, joyful, is our song  
Loving You is never wrong  
We can do it any way  
We can praise You every day  
For You love us, everyone  
Doesn't matter where we're from.**

**One:** You are our Creator and You inspire our creativity,  
just like You did in Jesus.  
Jesus knew the traditional ways,  
yet Christ still innovated.  
Jesus knew the traditional rituals,  
yet in his life they found fresh expressions.  
Jesus knew the traditional prayers,  
yet deviated to pray from the heart.

It was tradition, that the one with the least importance  
would be stuck with the task of washing the feet of guests.  
Not being bound by tradition,  
Jesus, the teacher, their master, the Messiah of God,  
took it upon himself, to humble himself  
and washed the feet of all,  
willingly,  
as an act of gracious love.  
Should we not do the same?

Not being bound by tradition,  
Jesus blessed the Passover bread,  
traditionally used to celebrate the deliverance from Egyptian bondage,  
broke the bread and shared it with all who were present saying new words:  
“Take and eat, this is my body broken and given for all.”  
Should we not do the same?

Not being bound by tradition,  
Jesus blessed the Passover wine,  
traditionally used to celebrate the deliverance from Egyptian bondage,  
filled the cup and shared it with all who were present saying new words:  
“Drink together, this is the cup of my blood,  
being poured out in honor of God's everlasting Covenant of grace,  
promising deliverance from sin and death, to you and all who will believe.”  
Should we not do the same?

We will do the same.

We have chosen to follow Jesus in creative ways,  
trusting in God alone and entering into this holy mystery, we declare:

**All:** (Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle)

**Christ has died upon a tree  
All to save both you and me.  
Christ has risen from the grave  
All from sin we now are saved  
Christ is coming back again  
Evil lost, new life begins.**

**One:** Unexpected Grace, Merciful Surprise  
Use these gifts of bread and wine  
to astound us with the body and blood of Christ  
the miracle of incarnation.

Unexpected Grace, Merciful Surprise  
Use the gifts of our unassuming lives  
to astound the world with Your church,  
the sacrificial body and innovative bride of Christ  
the miracle of incarnation.

Unexpected Grace, Merciful Surprise  
use the gifts of the Choptank United Methodist Charge  
to bless their communities with gracious hospitality and compassion.  
Inspire them to become creative with their traditions  
enabling them to speak Your words of grace to a new generation.  
Keep them flexible, so they can receive a harvest of new wine,  
rich blessings they had never dreamed possible in their life time.

**All:** (Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle)

**Here us Jesus as we pray  
Help us follow Your new way.  
Holy Spirit give us love  
Rest upon us heavenly dove.  
Holy Father now draw near  
Bless and keep all we hold dear.**

**One:** Now let us pray in the pattern laid down by Jesus:

**All: Father God who's up above  
Filling all our world with love.  
We want heaven to come down  
Your home on earth to be found.  
Give us all our daily bread  
Please make sure that all are fed.**

**Please forgive now all our sins**

**we our broken ways will mend.  
Lead us from our temptation.  
From evil contemplation.  
To You we now all belong  
All our worship, every song.** (Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle)

Prayer after Communion:

We have been humbled by Your invitation to join with You in this sacred moment. Who are we to be honored with Your presence? We are we to be touched once again by Your grace and to be granted Your peace. Now give us the high privilege of representing You in the world. May we be so bold as to love as You love; to show mercy as You show mercy and to grant forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.