

Holy Communion  
(Seventh Sunday After Pentecost - New Ministry)

Invitation:

One: Come, gather around Christ's table. It is here that we are reprogrammed, given new dreams and amazing visions of what love can do. Here we are nourished on a universal love, an unstoppable love, an unquenchable love, an uncontainable love. Here is where the seeds of new ministries are planted in our souls. Come, receive a fresh calling.

Confession:

**All: We are sorry, but we would rather be served than to serve. We desire pampering not getting down and dirty with You meeting the needs of sinners. We want Your church to be about us and our desires, our own private club with easy access to You. Forgive us when we feel Your salvation, Your forgiveness, Your mercy is not enough. Forgive us when we see opportunities for ministry as a burden and a chore and not as an honor and a privilege. It is time for us to mature and feed others and not wait to be fed on the milk of our favorite Bible stories. It is time for us to sink our teeth into the meat of the gospel and take our place beside You transforming the world with grace, mercy, and restorative justice. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

One: The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, gifted, and called. Amen.

**All: The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, gifted, and called. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving:

One: You were set aside for ministry at your baptism:

**All: We have been entrusted with the ministry of all believers.**

One: You are an essential part of the body of Christ.

**All: Together our lives make a needed difference in the world.**

One: Your ministry encourages my heart.

**All: God is filling lives with hope and joy.**

One: You are always seeking the left out,  
those who feel an emptiness in their souls.  
You leave the ninety-nine, your church,  
encouraging ministries to reach the one.  
You know that it is not the well who need a doctor,  
nor those who live in safety who need deliverance,  
so You want to minister through us to those who do.  
When the ignored is found,  
we and all of heaven rejoice, saying:

**All: We're always with You!  
All that is Yours is now ours!  
We must celebrate!**

**The dead are alive!**  
**All who were lost have been found.**  
**We must celebrate!** (Luke 15:31-32)

One: We celebrate all that You have entrusted to us,  
and we are ready to be sent out with Christ as Your gift to the world.  
We want to be sent out  
without money,  
without anything extra,  
dependant upon the charity of others,  
ready to cast out evil,  
ready to bring a healing touch,  
ready to share Christ's words of grace.  
We are open and ready for new ministries  
and Your Spirits call.

Like Jesus, we are ready  
to take up our towel and basin.  
Like Jesus, we are willing  
to kneel and wash the feet  
of those who will betray us,  
those who will deny our friendship,  
and those who may be too afraid to follow.  
We have a call to ministry.

Passover was a call to ministry.  
The bread Jesus blessed,  
was a call, to not forget about all those still held in bondage.  
Jesus broke the bread and passed it around, saying:  
"Take and eat. This bread is my body broken and given for you."  
We remember, and join Christ in ministry.

Passover was a call to ministry.  
The wine Jesus blessed,  
was a call, to not forget about those who still harden their hearts.  
Jesus poured the wine and passed it around, saying:  
"Take and drink. This is the cup of my blood,  
offered in ministry to further God's eternal covenant of grace,  
providing forgiveness for not only you, but for all who will believe."  
We remember, and join Christ in ministry.

People need the Lord, now.  
God is calling us because  
the time is right and the needs are great.  
So today, we embrace the call of Christ that

we hear in this mystery we proclaim:

**All: In ministry, Christ has died, and so might we.  
In ministry, Christ is risen, so are we.  
In ministry, Christ will never give up, and neither shall we.**

One: Anointed Call, Fruitful Gift, Servant Heart  
illuminate these gifts of bread and wine  
enable us to see in them the body and blood of Christ  
a life of ministry.

Anointed Call, Fruitful Gift, Servant Heart  
illuminate the gifts of our prayers, our presence, our gifts, service and witness,  
enable the world to see in them Your church,  
the sacrificed body and the supportive bride of Christ,  
a life of ministry.

Anointed Call, Fruitful Gift, Servant Heart  
illuminate for the Choptank Charge of the United Methodist Church  
the new ministries needed in their community and world.  
Ignite in their souls a burning desire to serve You.  
Open their hearts to hear the cries of those in need of loving care  
and the tender touch of mercy.  
Let their young see Your visions and their elders see your dreams.

**All: We pray because Jesus wants this to happen.  
We pray because our hearts are moved by the Holy Spirit and power.  
We pray because our Creator has a plan for our churches and our communities,  
and we want to have a part in bringing glory and honor to our Lord and Savior.  
Amen.**

One: Let us all join our voices to pray according to the plan of Christ.

**All: God of mercy, compassion and grace, who is actively transforming our world.  
Your people are called to minister in Your name.  
Every day You provide us with enough food to share with those who have none.  
You do not want us to waste our time in conflict,  
so we forgive others just as God has forgiven us.  
God encourages us never to give up on anyone,  
knowing that evil will be defeated by good.  
Everyday we are called to minister, with generosity, kindness, and love. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

**All: Thank you for inviting us to take part in this holy mystery. We have found Christ here. Once again we have taken him into our lives. We have taken his call to heart and begin new lives of ministry. May the world see our coming as good news. May the difference we bring to their lives cause them not only to praise You, but to worship You forever. Amen.**

