

Service of Holy Communion for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
*(The Cost of Discipleship)*

**Invitation:**

One: Do not feel compelled to come to this table. You are invited to come of your own free will. Know that you will find the presence of God here and be warned that all who come will be changed forever, some in small ways, others in more dramatic ways. Here you will find mercy, and a peace not as the world gives, and the grace of God.

**Confession:**

**All: My life is no longer my own, I give it to you.  
I will do anything for you, no matter how unimportant.  
Please give me some task to perform, even if I have to struggle to perform it.  
Give me any job you want, even if it is just to stay out of your way.  
My satisfaction or dissatisfied does not matter.  
My personal gain or loss means nothing, it's ok.  
I freely choose to make my whole life completely available to you.  
I choose to be your disciple, forever. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:**

One: The cost of your discipleship is nothing, because everything you have comes from God alone, even your salvation. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven.

**All: The cost of your discipleship is nothing, because everything you have comes from God alone, even your salvation. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven.**

**Thanksgiving:**

One: Discipleship is viewing family with a global understanding.

**All: Discipleship is experiencing the cross in a personal way.**

One: We have estimated what it will cost us to follow Christ,

**All: It's everything we have. It's everyone we know. It's all that we ever hoped to be.**

One: By giving up everything, we have experienced the joy of finding that You are everything.

**All: In You, O Lord, we celebrate the richness and the fullness of life.**

One: Your ways are not our ways,  
we must learn a whole new way of being.  
Your thoughts are not our thoughts,  
we must allow you to change our ways of thinking.  
Your language is not our language.  
You speak through the cries of the oppressed;  
the tears of the suffering;  
and the groans of those who carry heavy burdens.  
Thank you for your patience in giving us time to learn.  
Thank you for not giving up on us when we respond too slowly.  
Thank you for receiving us as your apprentices.  
May our praise give you pleasure, as we join our voices one with another.

May our harmonies blend nicely with your heavenly choirs as we proclaim:

**All: I long for You to kiss me with the kisses from your lips!  
For Your divine love is better than wine.  
Your anointing oils surround me with your fragrance,  
Every time I hear Your name is like perfume poured out;  
This is why everyone loves you so.** (Based on Song of Songs 1:2-3)

One: Everyone does love you, and Christ with you.  
Many are called, but few choose to follow you.  
Peter, Andrew, James and John left their nets and followed you.  
Matthew left the tax money sitting on the table and followed.  
Mary Magdalene left behind her demons.  
So many others have followed century after century  
risking everything to follow the Christ.  
Now it's our turn.

Those who follow, choose like Jesus  
to wash the feet of others as a slave to all.  
Those who follow, choose like Jesus to turn the other cheek  
and walk the extra mile.  
Those who follow, choose like Jesus to take up their cross  
and forgive those who still don't understand.

To teach the cost of discipleship,  
Jesus took and blessed the bread eaten by the oppressed, saying:  
"Take a bite, all of you. This is my body broken and given for you."  
This is a truth disciples must remember.

To teach the cost of discipleship,  
Jesus poured and blessed the wine shared by all who hoped for a better day, saying:  
"Take a sip, all of you. This is the cup of my blood  
offered freely to ratify God's eternal covenant established with everyone.  
It guarantees for all time the forgiveness of our sins and those of the whole world."  
This is a truth disciples must remember.

We remember with joy.  
We remember all Christ has done,  
and proclaim it loudly as our profession of faith.

**All: Christ is the one who was, is, and is to come.**

One: Priceless treasure, Pricy Pearl,  
enhance the value of this bread and wine  
by making it for us, the body and blood of Christ,  
joy, peace, and eternal life.

Priceless Treasure, Pricy Pearl,  
enhance the value of our lives and ministry  
by make us for the world, your church,  
the body and bride of Christ,  
joy, peace, and eternal life.

Priceless Treasure, Pricy Pearl  
use your disciples of the Choptank Charge.  
We seek to study to be approved  
in our study of your word,  
in our service to those in need,  
and in our love for the forgotten and loveless who dwell around us.

**All: Counting the cost we life our prayers to you, O Christ.  
Opening our hearts to be filled by your Holy Spirit,  
And to be transformed by the Creator of us all,  
seeking only to live lives that bring glory to you, now and always. Amen.**

One: Now hear us as we pray as disciples of Jesus, saying:

**All: 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.**

**Words after Communion:**

**All: As your disciples we are humbled by your invitation to join with you in celebrating this holy mystery. We are reminded, that nothing we might give you will ever come close to the magnificent gift you have given us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. So now send us out, and we shall endeavor to live lives that demonstrate the reality of Christ in all we say and do. May Christ's grace and mercy be felt by all. Amen.**