

(soft organ-pipe music) (choir sings)

- When we gather to praise God, we'd remember that we are his people who have preferred our wills to his accepting his power to become new persons in Christ, Let us confess our sin before God and one another. ♪ Lord have mercy upon us ♪ ♪ Christ have mercy upon us ♪ ♪ Lord have mercy upon us ♪

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought word and deed. We have not loved you our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We pray you of your mercy, forgive what we have been, amend what we are, direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways through Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen. Hear the good news Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. That is God's own proof of his love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Congregation: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

- Amen.

Congregation: Amen. (choir sings)

- Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and the word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today, amen.

- The reading for the day is from the epistle of Paul to the Corinthians chapter one versus four through nine. " I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you are enriched in Him with all speech and all knowledge, even as a testimony to Christ was confirmed among you so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ. God is faithful by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord." Here ends the reading of the scripture.

- God is faithful by whom we were called in the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. This fellowship we have is initiated, founded, rooted, grounded, sustained, and fulfilled in God. Perhaps this is one reason that much of our so-called fellowship today is empty and meaningless. It is often totally person centered with no God reference at all. Perhaps our deepest need for an experience of true fellowship among us as human beings, is our need more a sense of the transcendence of God. Keith Watkin has written a timely and provocative little book entitled "Liturgies in a Time When Cities Burn." In it, he reversed to an experience in an novel by Jessamine West book. In a California home, two middle aged sisters spend a summer waiting for one of them to die of cancer. During the weeks of waiting, they could distract their lives, remember all that

had passed between them, during the years since the one person held her infant sister in her arms. In all these experiences there is no religion, where the families pilgrim faith had disappeared in their grandmother's generation, leaving only the shell of what had once been their people's basic wisdom. At bed time, these two women do have a ritual. A so a rhythmic stroking of fragrant grease into their faces as their mother and their grandmother before them had done. At bed time, they were bound to the past, not by memories of prayer said, Bible stories read, but by memories of emotions of another time. Face creams held the generations together. Face creams hold the generations together. But it takes more than face to hold us together. God is faithful, by whom we were called, held together by the love of God who is above us and yet among us. Cross on the communion table is central as symbol within our Christian faith, or it was here that Jesus died for each of us. George MacLeod of the Island Community off the coast of Scotland, says that our greatest temptation is always been to dismember the cross. By denying its horizontal beam. The reaching out of the spirit of Christ to persons. In our time, we need to remember that the cross also has a verdict beam. The verdict, what you see is the tallest beam. It is also the beam which supports the totality of the cross. It reminds us in the words of Saint Augustine, "It is thou Oh, God in alone to abide is to stand firm. Thou the Lord who is to fortify, if thou should be lost all would come to nothing." How can we talk of fellowship in such a broken, angry, hostile, world. North and south Vietnam continue to fight so much so that 50,000 have died since both peace with honor king. The Israelis are still in conflict. The coal miners and the government in Britain. The truckers and the government in the United States. Mother against daughter, father against son, friend against friend, neighbor against neighbor. Dare I say here, roommate against roommate. But you know, I doubt seriously that our world, our country our community, are any more broken or hostile or angry than those at Paul's day. The difference between Paul and us though is that Paul knew that God is faithful, and that our fellowship comes from God through Jesus the Christ. We need again the sense of the omnipresent, the transcendent, as well as imminent presence of God. Just simply to believe that God is in charge, that God does rule over all. That God knows what he's doing. And that we gather in His name, a sense that there is one above us to draw us together here, the source, the ground, the ultimate. That which dare I to say, no American has discovered, no American can control, and no American can manipulate. God is not made in the USA. There is someone bigger than you and me, alpha, omega, the beginning, the ending, Yahweh, the word, immortal, invisible, God only wise. I heard a folk song just the other day for the first time that had some words in it like this. When I fall in love with you, next time, it will be forever. And you know, I hear this transcendent omnipotent God saying to you and me this morning, that in the life, the ministry, the death and the rest direction of Jesus, the Christ, I fell in love with you my children, and this is forever. This God calls us into fellowship. Fellowship with the Christ who says, this is my body, this is my blood. God is faithful by whom we are called into fellowship with Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

- Let us affirm our faith.

All: We believe in God who has created and is creating. Who has come in the true man, Jesus, to reconcile and make new. Who works in us and other by his spirit. We trust him, He calls us to be in His church to celebrate His presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen our judge and our hope, in life in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone, thanks be to God.

- Let us pray That the world may live in peace, and that the church may achieve unity, fulfilling its service here and everywhere.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

- That all ministers and teachers in the church, may be faithful servants of the gospel leading others into its way of life and strengthening their faith.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

- That the leaders of this nation and of the world may govern with justice and mercy.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

- That all our work may be done for the common good, that it be done safely, and that all may be spared from grinding toil which destroys fullness of life.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

- That those who work on frontiers of truth, and those who enrich our lives with beauty and joy may be free to follow their vocations.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear are prayer.

- That those who suffer disease or poverty or loneliness or grief, may be healed and comforted. That those who are oppressed or persecuted, may be strengthened and delivered.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

- That those whom we have known and loved, who have died in the faith may be a glorious memory to us, and a source of renewed fellowship with all the saints.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen.

- Christ our Lord, invites to His table all who love Him and who desire to live in peace with one another. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation: And also with you.

- As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God. (soft organ-pipe music) (choir sings)

- Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, help us rightly surrender to the all that we have and all that we are. That we may praise thee not with our lips, but with our whole lives, turning the duties sorrows and the joys of all our days into a living sacrifice to thee, amen.

- The Lord is with you.

Congregation: And with your spirit. Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: Give thanks to the Lord.

- Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

Congregation: It is right that we should always give praise.

- Father, it is right that we should always and everywhere, give you thanks and praise. Only you, oh God, you created all things and called them good. You made us in your own image. Even when we rebelled against your love you did not desert us. You delivered us from captivity. Made covenant to be our God and king and spoke to us through your prophets. Therefore we join the entire company of heaven and all your people now on earth in worshiping and glorifying you.

All: Holy holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

- We thank you, Father, that you love the world so much you sent your only Son to be our savior. The Lord of all life came to live among us. He healed and taught people, ate with sinners, and won for you, a new people by water and the spirit. We saw his glory, yet He humbled himself in obedience to your will, freely accepting death on a cross. By dying, He freed us from unending death. By rising from the dead He gave us everlasting life. We remember that on the night in which He gave Himself up for us, the Lord Jesus took bread after giving you thanks He broke the bread gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you." When the supper was over, He took the cup, again, He returned thanks to you, gave the cup to His disciples and said, "Drink from this all of you. This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood poured out for you and many for the forgiveness of sins." When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we experience a new, the presence of the Lord, Jesus Christ and look forward to His coming in final victory.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. We remember and proclaim with gratitude heavenly Father what your Son has done for us, in His life and death, in His resurrection and ascension, accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, in union with Christ's offering for us as a reasonable and holy surrender of ourselves. Send the power of your Holy Spirit on us. Gathered here out of love for you and on these gifts. Help us know in the breaking of this bread, the presence of Christ who gave His body and blood for mankind. Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in service to all mankind through your Son, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all glory and honor is yours Father, amen. In unity with Christ and each other we pray, our father in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come, your

will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today the bread we need. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours now and forever, amen. ♪ ♪ Lord take us all ♪ ♪ Our sins away ♪ ♪ Have mercy upon us ♪ ♪ Lord take ♪ ♪ Our sins away ♪ ♪ Have mercy upon us ♪ ♪ Lord have mercy ♪ ♪ Lord take our sins away ♪ ♪ Lord have mercy ♪ Because there is one loaf. We many, as we are, are one body. For it is one loaf of which we all partake. When we break the bread, is it not a means of sharing in the body of Christ?

- When we give thanks over the cup, is it not a mean of sharing in the blood of Christ?

- Body of Christ. (soft organ-pipe music)

- The congregation is now invited to our Lord's table to receive the elements of communion. The ushers will assist you in coming forward. The choir will commune first. Anyone who needs to receive the element at their seats, please feel free to tell the usher so that we will be able to serve you. (soft organ-pipe music)

- Now beloved, go in peace, and may the peace of God be with you, amen. (soft organ-pipe music) (choir sings) Now beloved go in peace, and made the peace of God be with you, amen. (choir continues singing) And now dear friends in Christ, go in peace, and may the peace of God be with you, amen. (choir continues singing) Now dear friends in Christ, go in peace, and may the peace of God be with you, amen. (choir continues singing) Now dear friends in Christ, go in peace, and made the peace of God be with you, amen. (choir continues singing)

- You have given yourself to us oh, Lord.

Congregation: Now give ourselves to us.

- Your love has made us a new people.

Congregation: As a healing of the Lord, to serve you with joy.

- Your glory has filled our hearts.

Congregation: Our last to glorify you in all things.

- Amen.

- As a people of love, we will serve you with joy, we all just said. One meaningful experience of the early church was the exchange of the peace. Often called the kiss of peace or an exchange of greeting of love from one Christian to another. And so as we ministers now exchange the peace among us, let me invite you to stand and exchange the peace with those around you. You may wish to say the love of God be with you, the peace of Christ be with you, or I love you.

- The peace of Christ. (fast-paced organ-pipe music) (choir sings)

- Go out in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

Congregation: The blessing of God Almighty.

- The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is with few always. ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪
♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ (bell chimes) (fast-paced organ-pipe music)