



*“When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” - Luke 13:12*



*Jesus and the Bent Over Woman - By artist Barbara Schwarz OP*

# Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

“I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME”

UMH 521

GREETING

PRESIDER

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

God  
Creator, Hoverer  
You speak and we form  
You breathe life and we awake  
You said “it is good” and we believe

**God**

**The Red Sea before us, shouting impossibility  
They say we can’t, we shouldn’t, and we wouldn’t  
Words seeded from our youth, the limits and the lies  
There must be truer truths in us to confound, resist, defy  
Created from nothing, said something, made everything**

This God  
The Lord will fight for us, so we need only to be still  
Still our soul, stand out loud, trusting that God is  
El Roi, God who sees, bears witness to a name  
At her sound, she leaps, demands possibility  
Immanuel, God with us, for us, within us

**God**

**You said “it is good” and we believe  
You breathe life and we awake  
You speak and we form  
Creator, Hoverer  
God**

\*OPENING HYMN

O CHRIST, THE HEALER, WE HAVE COME

NCH 175 (v.1,2,4)

## \*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

[All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

*S. Minister:* The baptismal font reminds us of God's promise of cleansing and forgiveness. In that confidence, let us lift our voices in a prayer of confession.

*All:* **Empowering God, you are the One in whom I live and breathe and have my being. I know that I am your beloved child, gifted with a powerful call to be your person in the world. I know that I am powerful because of the seeds of power you have planted inside of me.**

*S. Minister:* You unfold a path before me and invite me to be a co-creator with you as we journey together in love. Although I know all of this, I confess that I am tempted to doubt in my heart: I doubt my call, my gifts, my agency, my power. I often neglect to claim my agency or use my power because I am afraid. The familiar companions of anxiety and fear continually beg me to include them on the journey.

*All:* **Help me have the courage to remain firmly rooted in your love and power. Remind me of my identity and call. Give me the courage to claim and use power you give me to flourish and thrive in the places to which you have called me. Empower me to rise to meet the challenges of this day with confidence, power, and love. Amen.**

*Presider:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## STUDENT MINISTER

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a non-contact way that's comfortable to you and your neighbor.

Peace be with you!

**And also with you!**

Let us share this peace with one another.

# Service of the Word

POEM

“FREEDOM”

LANGSTON HUGHES

*The poet demands freedom—not tomorrow, but now. Likewise in today’s scripture Jesus works on the Sabbath day, healing a woman aching to be set free.*

Freedom will not come  
Today, this year  
Nor ever  
Through compromise and fear.

I have as much right  
As the other fellow has  
To stand  
On my two feet  
And own the land.

I tire so of hearing people say,  
*Let things take their course.*  
*Tomorrow is another day.*  
I do not need my freedom when I’m dead.  
I cannot live on tomorrow’s bread.

Freedom  
Is a strong seed  
Planted  
In a great need.  
I live here, too.  
I want my freedom  
Just as you.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

Please, join me in prayer.

*[Pause for 2 deep breaths for centering.]*

Ever-living Spirit, give us humility of mind and hospitality of heart to receive your gracious Word in ancient stories of your faithfulness. Make ancient words new, and lost hopes rise again, as you speak the promise to us this day, O Spirit of Truth, O Life-Giving Breath. **Amen.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 13, verses 10 through 17.

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

Hear what God is saying to the people. **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON****REV. DR. MELVIN BABER****PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY****STUDENT MINISTER**

Ever living and ever loving God,  
We praise you for your loving presence with us.

**Come, Holy Spirit,**

Take and transform our societies—  
that broken people find healing;  
that lonely people find love;  
that bitter people find peace;  
that fearful people find hope.  
Come, Holy Spirit,

**Remove what hinders us from loving each other – matters of status, race, class, ability, gender, sexual orientation, theology, or political affiliation. We are all your reflection; remind us of this truth. Come, Holy Spirit,**

Fill your church—  
that our worship will be ever more pleasing to you;  
that prayers will change our minds  
instead of trying to get you to change yours;  
that our lives will make a real difference to real people in the real world.  
Come, Holy Spirit,

**Fill our lives with your presence—  
so that more and more every day,  
all that we do and say and hope  
will be an act of worship to you and an expression of love to others,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## *Service of the Table*

**OFFERTORY SONG**

**INSTRUMENTAL**

### **\*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The Holy One be with you  
**And also with you**  
Open your hearts to the One who is Love  
**We open our hearts to you, O God**  
Let us give thanks to God, who gathers us together  
**To the One who welcomes us to the table,  
We give thanks and praise**

God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is but a taste of the love you extend to us every day. By your very nature, you are always seeking us out – searching for ways to connect us and connect with us. You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred. By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbors, in our own internal depths.

Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you,

**Holy, Holy, Holy One  
God of justice and love  
Heaven and earth are full of your wonder  
Hosanna, among us**

Blessed are you and blessed is your eternal table. You welcome all who thirst for justice and hunger to grow in love. You ask us to extend this same welcome to all our neighbors, but God, since our beginning, we have struggled.

And so in your love for us, you took on flesh in Jesus. Through his life, you pointed to your presence on the margins. You revealed the sacredness in all life. You showed us how to live together, even among forces of destruction.

Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News. He called for the captives to be set free. He spoke of the lowly being lifted up. He talked of redistributing wealth and eradicating the causes of poverty. His commitment to practicing love knew no bounds – not even the bounds of death.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said: “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying: “This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.” In remembrance of all you have done to save us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ was birthed among us.**

**Christ was killed among us.**

**Christ rises again among us.**

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God. Make these ordinary elements into the Sacred gift of your presence with us once again. May they awaken us anew to your everlasting invitation into a life of resurrection. Enliven us in our pursuit of a world where all needs are met, power is balanced, and the worth of every creature and creation is celebrated. Through Christ, our Lord, we pray. AMEN

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRESIDER

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty eco-friendly cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. All bread is gluten free.

Or you may take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing. A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward, please signal the ministers and we will come to you at your seat. Those who prefer not to partake in Communion are invited to a different kind of divine encounter through an interfaith prayer of blessing. If this is your preference, we invite you to meet the minister at the baptismal font.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at this table where Christ is the host.

## COMMUNION SONG

## “COME, YOU HUNGRY ONES” (KUM BA YAH)

DESMOND 8.8.8.5

"Come, you hungry ones," Jesus said.  
"Come to me and know: I am Bread!  
Come, you weary ones; you are blest!  
In me, find your rest."

Hear our cry, O God, hear our prayer!  
Heal the ones who know deep despair;  
Mend the broken ones from their pain.  
Make them whole again.

God, we need you, too, so we pray:  
Give us life and health every day.

Give us joy and peace, trusting you.  
In Christ, make us new.

We are saved, O Lord, by your grace;  
We are healed and sent from this place.  
Through your Spirit's gifts, may we  
share  
Your love everywhere.

Tune: Traditional African melody ("Kum  
ba Yah") (MIDI)



# *Going Forth as the Body of Christ*

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**PRESIDER**

God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you make us one body. Bind us together by your spirit that we might live into your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ and rich in compassion, commitment, courage, and care. May it be so.

**\*CLOSING**

**“FINALLY FREE”**

**REND COLLECTIVE**

**\*BENEDICTION**

[All are invited to turn toward the Preacher at the Baptismal Font.]

**SENDING & POSTLUDE**

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Cover Art: <https://margmowczko.com/jesus-and-infirmed-bent-over-woman-luke-13/>

Opening Song: *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Geneva Press, 2000)

Call to Worship: Gail Song Bantum, "A Psalm of Possibility" in *A Rhythm of Prayer: A Collection of Meditations for Renewal*, ed. Sarah Bessey, First edition (New York: Convergent, 2021), 12–13.

Prayers of Confession: Colleen Hallagan Preuninger, "A Prayer for Agency and Power" in *Speaking Truth: Women Raising Their Voices in Prayer*, ed. J. Paige Boyer, et al. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2020), 22.

Prayer of Assurance: Episcopal Church, ed., *The Book of Common Prayer: And Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, Together with the Psalter or Psalms of David According to the Use of the Episcopal Church* (New York: Good Books, 2016), 305.

Poem: "Freedom [1]" from *The Collected Works of Langston Hughes*. Copyright © 2002 by Langston Hughes. Reprinted by permission of Harold Ober Associates, Inc.

Prayer for Illumination: <http://www.caldwellpresby.org/docs/resources/Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf>

Prayers of the Community: From the Baptist Union of Great Britain website. <http://www.baptist.org.uk/> Edits and additions by the LTS worship team

Communion Liturgy: from enfleshed <https://enfleshed.com/liturgy/communion-liturgies/>

Communion Song: Tune: Traditional African melody ("Kum ba Yah") (MIDI) Text: Copyright © 1999 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Copied from *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Geneva Press, 2000). Email: [carolynshymns@gmail.com](mailto:carolynshymns@gmail.com)

Closing: <https://youtu.be/1IATot8ghzs>

***\*The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.***

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**THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:**

*To serve the universal church of our Creator.*

*To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.*

*To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.*