

A Communion Service created by Arthur Clyde and Rev. Barbara Martin in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd. This service is intended to be shared freely and adapted in any way that meets the needs of your community. It is included in Union Congregational U.C.C.'s Sunday worship video for June 7, 2020 found at unionslp.com.ⁱ

Breaking Bread in the Midst of Brokenness A liturgy for communion

Introduction:

We know that what we do here today and EACH day is of utmost importance to God.

This matters – EACH of us matters – we. . . together. . . MATTER.

And through this, we are reminded that this ‘movable feast’ at our own tables, is a symbol of God’s radical welcome, where we remember the hospitality that Jesus offered . . . as he shared in so many meals with his friends – family and strangers, saints and sinners.

Let’s remember that Jesus said and did some radical things: he turned tables upside down, he welcomed the last to be the first, he dined with the enemy, and healed the oppressed.

So, today as bold followers of the living Christ, we set our tables with placemats of justice, equity, love, and hope while we open ourselves to the invitation that we are called to share in the world.

ONE: The Christ who broke bread with his disciples is among us today, as we gather in circles of care that are constantly changing, always different, made up of strangers, friends, newcomers, long timers, in a moment of brokenness.
We gather in marches of protest, by internet, by television, in isolation or distanced with masks, and Christ says: “I am with you always, to the end of the age”

And we say:

“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ONE: In the midst of the creation of the universe, in the Bethlehem birth of a Savior, in the agony of Jesus’s killing, and in these times as we remember the death of George Floyd and many others, we remember that God has been in the midst of pain with God’s faithful,

And we say:

“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ONE: And now in the midst of brokenness, we gather as a church, connected through many circles to each other, and to many others, sharing what we have with each other

and with the world, and on this broken body of humanity we ask for your blessing on this meal of bread, which we will break together and the fruit of the vine.

So let us now contemplate your presence, O Holy One, your company in this time and this place – let us contemplate your journey with us through this wilderness of pandemic, injustice, unrest, and inequity.

And we say:

“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ONE: As we share this meal together, let us hold each other in our hearts and imagine a world where peace is built on justice, where violence has no place, and where all can breathe.

ONE: So let us break bread.

We say: **We eat broken bread in the midst of brokenness.**

[We eat the bread.]

ONE: And let us drink the cup.

We say: **We drink the cup in the midst of thirstiness.**

[We drink the cup.]

[PAUSE]

HYMN Let Us Break Bread Together NCH 330

ONE: Now let us go and share the bread, the Word, with the world, friends and strangers alike, sharing the pain and the joy of discipleship in the name of God - Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

ONE: Let us go in peace.

We say: **Let us go in peace.**

ⁱ The images shown during the Communion service were taken by Barbara Martin. She is making them available as Creative Commons. You may email her for copies pastor@unionslp.com. Art Clyde can be contacted at birkland.clyde@yahoo.com