# Advent Communion Liturgy

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As we come to this table,

we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ,

a banquet prepared for everyone.

All who seek to be nourished and sustained

in the journey of faith,

all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice,

are welcome here.

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts in prayer.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

*Let us pray:*

(*The following prayer was inspired by “Blessed are you, gracious God…” by William Kervin and Lillian Perigoe in* Celebrate God’s Presence*, page 276. Used with permission.*)

Blessed are you, Breath of peace,

Giver of all life,

Source of love that knows no boundaries.

Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began;

throughout the ages, your song of liberation has impregnanted us with your hope for a world where:

 those considered last and least are first and most;

violence is overcome by the power of your ancient love; and,

all siblings work together for peace.

You bring our longings to birth,

and send prophets to awaken us

to your approaching Advent among us.

We thank you for those who, like Mary,

 have the strength and courage

 to give birth to your love in the world;

for those who, like the shepherds,

 dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem;

for those who, like the wise ones,

 actively challenge violent and oppressive powers.

We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us

 in womb and tomb,

 in cradle and cross,

 in tenderness and compassion.

We join in the Advent prayer of all your people,

**“O come, Emmanuel.”**

And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us,

we proclaim your goodness.

*All sing: Sanctus -- “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”* (*Voices United 1*)

At this time, we also remember

all with whom you would have us share your feast.

We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain…

all who are ill or alone…

all who are close to our hearts…

all our sisters who live with fear, oppression, or hunger…

all whose lives have been blighted by violence, racism, or poverty…

for all whom the world counts as last and least.

We pray for the church and its many ministries,

for nations as they strive for peace and justice,

for an end to violence against women.

God of hope, make this bread the means of our rebuilding,

this wine the medium of our transformation,

this table the foundation of our renewal,

and this community the place of our rebirth. Amen.

At this time, we remember Jesus,

Who on the night before he died,

took a loaf of bread,

gave you thanks, broke it, and said,

“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,

“This is the new covenant; remember me.”

Gracious God, Breath of peace,

Source of love,

we pray for your Spirit.

**Make us, while many, one.**

**Make us, though broken, whole.**

**Make us, despite death, alive.**

And so we pray:

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

And so we join with our siblings around the world in the prayer of Jesus:

**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

The body of Christ,

**the Bread of life.**

The lifeblood of Christ,

**the cup of blessing.**

Let us eat and drink together

for our strengthening in the faith,

and for the sake of the world.

*Communion is served*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**We thank you, God,**

**for breaking into our world**

**and pouring into our lives and our experiences.**

**We thank you, God,**

**for this meal of thanksgiving**

**and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.**