



# Communion

## **Invitation to Communion**

God of our hopes and dreams, we yearn for your presence this Advent Season--we are empty and long to be filled; we are hungry and long to be fed; we are lost and long to be found.

In this time of waiting, we feel scattered and torn as we struggle to answer the many demands on our time and attention. Just as Jesus gathered up the fragments that remained after feeding the crowds, gather up our Advent hopes and dreams, that nothing may be lost in your mercy.

Call us anew to eat our fill at Christ's table, that we may await the hope of ages with our faith and confidence undimmed. Amen.

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, Almighty God, our Comforter and Sustainer.

You made us in your image and filled us with longing, that our hearts might remain restless until they find their rest in you. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

In our learning for freedom through the ages, you perceived our yearning to be your covenant people. In the lineage of Sarah and Abraham, Elizabeth and Zechariah, and Mary and Joseph, we come to this season of holy mystery, awaiting the promise of your redeeming love.

And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

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

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ, who came announced

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by angels, worshipped by shepherds, and sought by wise men from the east.

As your precious gift to the world, Jesus walked among us, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and offering love and compassion to those in need.

Through Christ and the Holy Spirit, you answered our longing for connection by giving birth to your Church, delivering us from slavery to sin and death, and making with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

In this holy season of Advent, you awaken us to your Presence, and call us to be your compassion in the world, as we speak the truth of your love. Even when the song of the angels had stilled, and Jesus faced denial, betrayal, and death, he gave thanks and blessed the fruit of this, your good earth, offering not only bread and cup, but the bread that always satisfies and the life that never ends.

And we remember that night when Jesus shared a table with His disciples, took bread, blessed it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Jesus then took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins once and for all. Drink this in remembrance of me."

This bread and cup bring life and love to all--for they are God's love living in us, they are the Spirit's blessing, flowing through us. And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as holy and living gifts to you and to your world. In union with Christ's gift of love for us, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## **Prayer of Consecration**

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that this season of Advent may be a season of yearning for connection--a season of waiting with patience and hope. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup that they may bring your Advent miracle to a world that longs to believe in miracles once more. As we experience your presence in the eating of this bread and drinking of this cup, help us lay claim to the hope and promise of this season.

Through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

# Today's Scripture Reading

## Isaiah 9:1-7

A great light

<sup>1</sup> [a] Nonetheless, those who were in distress won't be exhausted. At an earlier time, God cursed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but later he glorified the way of the sea, the far side of the Jordan, and the Galilee of the nations. [b]

<sup>2</sup> [c] The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have made the nation great;  
you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as those who divide plunder rejoice.

<sup>4</sup> As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,  
the staff on their shoulders,  
and the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Because every boot of the thundering warriors,  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned, fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> A child is born to us, a son is given to us,  
and authority will be on his shoulders.  
He will be named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> There will be vast authority and endless peace  
for David's throne and for his kingdom,  
establishing and sustaining it  
with justice and righteousness  
now and forever.

The zeal of the Lord of heavenly forces will do this.

# Prayers



### Prayers are requested for:

- The Isca family on Ruth's passing
- A family friend who has breast cancer
- A friend with a sick baby
- Vic, the Kumar's stepfather who suffered a broken arm.
- Dorothy K

### Joys:

- Nathan and Brooklyn on their engagement (after 30 days the requests will be removed).

*Please, let us know if there is someone you'd like to have added to the list. Thank you.*

## Coming this week at St. Paul UMC!

### **Today — Sunday 12/4**

9:45 AM — Morning Worship and Live ZOOM Worship

Join us for coffee hour directly after the worship service.

5:00 PM — Guardians of Harmony Concert

Join us for a reception afterwards.

### **Today—Sunday 12/4 through Saturday 12/10**

Sock Collection for Hazel Park

### **Today—Sunday 12/4 through Sunday 12/11**

Toys for Tots Collection

### **Thursday — 12/8 through Thursday 12/22**

1:30 PM—2:30 PM Advent Class: The Redemption of Scrooge join us on Zoom

8 AM — 3 PM Otology Clinic for Oakland County in the Fellowship Hall

### **Tuesday — 12/13**

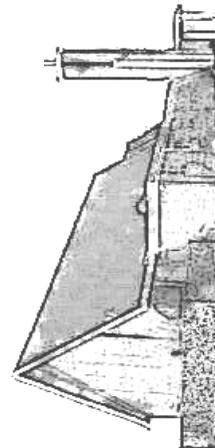
1:30 PM— Women's Luncheon at the Rusty Bucket

7:00 PM Leadership Meeting via ZOOM

**Hear the Sunday Worship service on the phone without the need for computer or internet. Dial 248-216-1657. Also watch on YouTube Online.**

- ◆ If you would like to help with the Hospitality Table, please, sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary.
- ◆ Admin Office Hours Monday & Thursdays 9:00 AM—1:00 PM
- ◆ Pastor Office Hours Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00—1:00 PM

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through grace  
WE ACCEPT OUR  
imperfections  
AND TRANSFORM THEM INTO  
good works  
THE REDEMPTION OF SCROOGE