

PP Communion

All good and gracious God, we gather on this first Sunday of 2019, surrounded by the peace of your sanctuary, the fellowship of those sitting around us, and by the safety of your grace, which bids us to come to you as we are, for what we need, and for all we are becoming.

On this Sunday, as we prepare to approach your table, to partake of the bread and cup, we pause to remember the many people who have shared bread with us over the years; the many friends who have helped us along the way; the work we shared with colleagues and co-workers; the mothers and fathers with homes and neighborhoods in which we were raised. We see that a holy communion has always been an underlying fabric throughout our lives for better or for worse. And there is our communion with you.

Sometimes very close; sometimes far away. Sometimes surprisingly joyful; sometimes with wretched sadness. At times triumphant; other times hopeless. Through all of these feelings and more you have never left us; you have never chided us for our lack of faith. You have always said come unto me, you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

And so we come, Lord, with thoughts and prayers for our children and grandchildren. We come with hope for those among us who are sick and suffering. We ask your comforting mercies for the families whose loved ones have passed on.

We remember those who live with pain and discomfort on a daily basis; who live with a fear of the future and the unknown. We remember the homeless, the hungry, the wounded and the refugee. We come with prayers for leaders and decision-makers who hold the reins of power, that they might choose the ways that make for peace.

Lastly, we pray for this, your church, in this place; that we may continue to seek you and to serve you; that we might be and become the salt and light that you wish us to be in our homes, our community, and our world. These prayers and even the deep wordless prayers of our hearts, we lift to you as we trust in the name of Jesus. Amen.