**Communion Service, December 6, 2015 (first Sunday of Advent)**

**Invitation**

“You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, who live in love and peace with your neighbours, who intend to lead a new life following Christ, the Word-made-flesh, draw near now by faith. Humbly make your honest confession to God, and take this holy sacrament for your comfort.”

**Prayer of confession**

As we prepare to come to the table today, let’s humbly make our honest confession to God:

Merciful God,

You are always with us, and yet always coming,

Here now, and still to come.

We confess that we don’t know

how to prepare for your Advent.

We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;

we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;

we get distracted by all the busyness of this season;

we swap the simplicity of a newborn child and the humility of the stable

for a frantic pace of buying and selling, giving and getting.

Forgive us, God.

Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,

the intelligent courage of the Magi,

and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,

so that we might journey with them to Bethlehem

and find the good news of a child born for us.

Now, in the quiet of our hearts,

we ask you to make us ready for his coming.

Amen.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

Let’s pray:

It really is good and right for us to glorify you,

O God, who made us and redeems us.

After all, only you are the true and living God.

You dwell in a light so pure and holy that no one could approach it.

You were here before time began,

You are Now, and you always will be.

You’re the fountain of all life.

You’re the source of all goodness,

You’re the High King of heaven.

And if we could get a glimpse of your throne room today, God,

We’d see thousands upon thousands of joyful angels

Standing before you, offering up praise that would take our breath away,

everytime it washes over them again,

How glorious and perfect and beautiful and gracious you are.

God, we join them now,

and we give voice to the praise of every creature here,

under heaven,

as we glorify your name, and say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who**

**comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Thank you God, for Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

You sent him into this world

to satisfy our longings for a Savior,

to bring freedom to those held captive in sin,

and to establish justice for the oppressed.

He came among us, as one of us,

made like us in every way

so that we would have no doubt

of your mercy and faithfulness towards us.

He took the lot of the poor

He shared the hurt of the suffering

He wept the tears of the grieving

He endured the trials of the tempted.

He felt the heartache of the rejected, and the outcast.

God, we rejoice that in his death and rising again,

you set before us the sure promise of new life,

the certain hope of a heavenly home

where we will sit at table with Christ, our host.

So as we prepare now ,

to share in this small taste of that heavenly feast at the end of all things,

we proclaim our faith today:

**Christ died,**

**Christ has risen,**

**Christ will come again**.

Amen.

**Prayer of Blessing:**

God, we ask now that you would send your Holy Spirit

Upon us and upon these gifts,

So that in the sharing of this simple loaf

And in the receiving of this humble cup

We might know the real presence

Of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Who came to us once

With all the humility of a homeless baby,

And all the simplicity of a make-shift crib.

May we become the kind of people

Who sees Christ, present in the simple places and the humble places of this world,

Even as we wait for his Coming again in all his glory.

**Words of Institution:**

Jesus is our host at this table, but he’s also the feast itself.

Because the night when they crucified him, Jesus took bread,

and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**Take, eat, this bread is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**

And in the same way, after supper he took the cup,

and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying:

**Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.**

People of God: the blood of Christ, shed for you; the body of Christ broken for you, may it preserve you, body and soul unto everlasting life.