**Christmas Morning Communion Service**

* *Congregation reads parts in bold together*

**Invitation:**

Follower of Jesus, hear this invitation to God’s table today:

“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 the resurrected Jesus and walking in his holy ways, 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 for communion this morning, let’s humbly make our honest confession to God.*

God of love,

all year long we’ve been pursuing power and money—

but you come to us in weakness.

All season long we’ve coveted material gifts--

when you alone offer the one thing needful

and the only thing lasting.

O God, through the work of the Christ Child,

Your one and only Son,

Our Immanuel:

We ask you to pull off all the shiny wrappings

of our best efforts and highest hopes, this morning,

and help us to see them for what they really are.

**Show us who we would be, without you**

**And who we can be, with you.**

**Forgive us,**

**heal us,**

**And correct us, we pray.**

[*Moment of slent confession*]

FreeWay family, on Christmas night, a glorious angel told the some terrified shepherds: “Do not be afraid: I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Because in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

And this is God’s message to us this morning, too: Don’t be afraid. Because a Saviour has been born to you in the town of David; and he *will* deliver his people from their sins.

Brothers and Sisters of Christ, receive the grace of God: Your sins really are forgiven.

Amen?

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

*Let’s pray:*

With joy we praise you,

Unexpected, unpredictable Christmas God,

Because you created heaven and earth,

You made us in your image,

and you kept your promises to us—

even when we fell into sin.

Thank you for Jesus Christ, your Son, Our Lord,

who came among us, as one of us,

to show us your glory, full of grace and truth.

Through him, we join our voices

with all the saints and the heavenly angels

and with the *whole* creation

to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Glory to God in the Highest**

**And on Earth, peace to men and women**

**On whom his favour rests.**

You sent him to be our Savior:

Our light in the midst of darkness,

Our hope in the face of threats,

Our peace in the deepest turmoil.

Father, words escape us to describe all that he is to us,

but in your Word and at this Table we meet him,

and discover a Truth what words could never express:

You *are* present in our lives.

So: filled with your joy on this morning

of celebration, we proclaim our hope with

boldness and confidence:

**Christ came,**

**Christ is come,**

**Christ will come again.**

**Prayer of Blessing:**

God, not everyone, that morning,

could recognize that humble child,

wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger,

as the Saviour of the World—

Anymore than *we* could recognize his presence at *this* table,

Without the gift of your grace.

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

So that in this simple feast of bread and cup

we might recognize the luxurious presence

of Jesus Christ, the Word-made-flesh.

And then grant that, having feasted together in him like this

We may be a genuine Christmas people,

inspired to speak the “Reason for the Season”

in those places where the world doesn’t yet know it

but so desperately needs it.

**Amen.**

**Words of Institution:**

Friends, 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. As you come to God’s table today, to celebrate the gift of his Son; may this Christmas feast preserve you, body and soul unto everlasting life.

Amen.