

A Liturgy for The Season of Epiphany



St. John the Evangelist
Niagara Falls

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here:

- If you are old or you are young, you are welcome here.
- If you are straight or gay or bisexual, you are welcome here.
- If you are rich or you are poor, you are welcome here.
- If you are a person of colour, indigenous, or white, you are welcome here.
- If you are a transgender person or gender doesn't define you, you are welcome here.
- If you are disabled or temporarily able-bodied, you are welcome here.
- If you are sick or well, you are welcome here.
- If you are hungry or overfed, you are welcome here.
- If you are inked or pierced or you couldn't imagine being inked or pierced, you are welcome here.
- If you believe in God all the time, some of the time, or none of the time, you are welcome here.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

- Come with your burdens and your peace, your pains and your joy.
- Come with the traditions that have hurt or healed you along your journey.
- Come with your experiences that have molded who you are.
- Come with an open heart ready to engage in relationship.
- Come to listen for the Spirit that calls you to learn to do right, seek justice, and defend the oppressed.
- Come and know that we are better together, working as a community.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Compiled by The Rev. Canon Jason M. Miller

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

Gathering Hymn

Presider The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Presider In this time and place we are not alone
For the wind of the Spirit moves
in and through us.

People **The wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.**

Leader In this time and place we are not alone for we gather with the whole company of heaven, in this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.

People **In this time and place heaven and earth are one.**

Presider In this time and place together, one people in Jesus Christ.

People **In the name of God, Creator, Saviour and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God.

(silence is kept)

The Collect of the Day is offered by the presider.

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Readings from the Hebrew Scriptures, New Testament Letters, and a Gospel are read and the Hymn of the Day is sung.

Affirming our Christian Story

All: We believe and trust in God the Father Almighty
We believe and trust in Jesus Christ, his Son.
We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.
We believe and trust in the Three in One.

(from Creating Uncommon Worship by Richard Giles)

Prayers of the People

One: God of wedding parties and new wine,
of love and laughter, dancing and singing,
we pause to pray for those among your worldwide family who
today may be feeling left out in the cold.

All: **Bless the many people who must toil for such long hours
that there is no time or energy to laugh or sing.**

Bless your children who feel so demeaned and exploited that
they view even angels of mercy with suspicion and fear.

All: **Bless the many folk who are caught in vicious circles of
evil and can see no way to escape.**

Continued...

Bless those among your children whose every waking hour is spent in pain, and whose sleep is at the best fitful.

(Members of the community are invited to share aloud or silently the concerns they bring on their hearts and minds this day.)

Lord remember all those we've named, and especially remember the forgotten ones.

All: **Bless those people who are drawn to Christ and new life, yet who fear the scorn of family, friends or workmates.**

Bless your children who once tasted the new wine of Christ but have now slipped away into indifference, or maybe despair.

All: **Bless those folk who with much trembling, hand their lives over to you this day. May they find faith and courage for the days to come.**

Bless the people of your church....

Our various cycles of prayer are offered

that abundant love may flow in our prayers
and our prayers flow into generous words and deeds.

All: **In the name of the Christ who makes all things new.
Amen!**

Confession & Absolution

Presider: In humility, as children of God and siblings in Christ, we receive God's mercy and respond to God's call to make new all relationships.

All: **Jesus, forgive my sins.
Forgive the sins I can remember, and also the sins I have forgotten.
Forgive the wrong actions I have committed, and the right actions I have omitted.
Forgive the times I have been weak in the face of temptation, and those when I have been stubborn in the face of correction.
Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements, and those when I have failed to boast of your works.
Forgive the harsh judgements I have made of others, And the leniency I have shown to myself.
Forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided. Forgive me the pain I have caused others, and the indulgence I have shown to myself. Jesus have pity on me, and make me whole.**

(Early Irish (from A Celtic Primer p. 95))

Presider: Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his future, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(this absolution is adapted from New Patterns of Worship of the Church of England)

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

Offertory Hymn

Prayer over the gifts – *see insert*

Presider: God is here

People: **The Spirit is with us.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts and minds.

People: **We lift them to God.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to God the Creator.

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

Presider: Holy and eternal One, in whom we live and move and have our being. You are our origin and our fulfillment; we praise and thank you for drawing us to this sacred meal.

From the ocean of your primal love, you fashioned the marvel of creation, and beauty of human life.

From this land of great lakes, forests and mist laden water falls, you humble us and affirm the sacred gift of all creation, calling us to care for everything given and received.

All: **Glory to you, source of all life**

Presider: From the earliest days the peoples of these lands learned their dependence on your provision, fish and deer, song and ceremony, dance and celebration, hallowed these sacred relationships with all life.

All: **Glory to you, source of all life**

Presider: In Jesus Christ, you came into our world to reveal your glory, reconcile all peoples to yourself, and make all things new in him.

Now, gathered from many places, and joining with the saints of every time and place, we raise our thankful voices in words of unending praise.

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.

Presider: Blessed are you, most holy One: For on the night before he died Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, gave it to all gathered, and said: "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, gave you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me."

All: **"Behold, I am with you to the end of the age".**

Therefore, God of all creation, we lift this Bread of Life, and this Cup of Salvation. Send your Holy Spirit on these gifts, and upon us, that we may know Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and follow him in lives of selfless service and courageous love.

All: **Glory to you, source of all life**

In the fullness of time reconcile all things in Christ, and bring us to that heavenly table, where every tear will be wiped away and we will feast anew. Blessing, praise and thanksgiving be to you, Holy and Eternal One, Undivided Trinity, One God, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

All: **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now
and for ever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider: He whose table was open to all is now present in this bread. He whose word welcomed friend and stranger offers friendship through this cup.

People: **With people everywhere we affirm God's goodness
at the heart of humanity, Planted more deeply than
all that is wrong**

Wild Goose Publishing

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Communion

"Holy Communion" by the Brilliance

Prayer after Communion

Presider: Let us pray.

Standing, the community prays in silence. The presider may say the Prayer after Communion appointed for the day. At the conclusion of the prayer the congregation says, Amen. Then the following doxology may be said.

All: **Glory to God,
whose power working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God, from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Blessing

Closing Hymn

Dismissal

One: Go, respecting and serving all that God has created.
People: **For God created all and saw that it was good. Amen.
Alleluia.**



