

Community Is

Notes:

- *If there is someone present who is First Peoples and they feel comfortable with co-presiding, then it is appropriate for that person to be L2*
- *Can be adapted appropriately for local contexts and availability of leaders*

L1:

Where does community happen?

It happens in our homes, on the streets our feet tread, it happens as we wait in line, and we welcome the stranger, the tourist, the long known friend.

It happens as we gather round in spaces held together. It happens as we disagree and see difference. It happens as passion for justice burns and work for peace endures day after day after day in the face of conflict and violence. It happens as stories meet. It happens here. Now, in this moment. It happens because Christ is. Christ is. Whether we see eye to eye or not, it is not ours and yet given to us because Christ is. Whether we hold deep abiding faith or a curiosity or disbelief and doubt it happens because Christ is.

(If a song prior to communion has yet been sung, it may be appropriate here)

L2:

In the beginning Creator Spirit was. Creator Spirit called the land together, the air, the waters. Creator Spirit called people together and gave them country, community, ceremony and song.

L3:

In the beginning was Elohim, Ruach, Logos. From nothing all was brought to life. All was given its place. All was given its rhythm.

L1: *(either pointing to or holding a candle if one is used within the worship space)*

In the beginning was Light. All the light that ever is and the light from which all light comes.

L2:

In the stories of the people, in the movement of the land, waters and sky, the people knew Creator Spirit. They knew hope, love, care, sustenance, connection, relationship and being. But Creator Spirit brought more story.

L3: In the stories of Jesus, and the breaking of bread through time, the people knew God. They knew hope, love, care, sustenance, connection, relationship and being. But God brought more story.

L1:

In the presence of community here and now, in the breaking of bread together, as Christ is, more story is brought.

Together:

Creator Spirit, we bring our stories, we bring our community, we bring all that has gone before us, and all that is hoped for after us.

ALL: As we be community because Christ is, we celebrate the story, the presence, the gift of grace, that you invite us to with breaking bread and sharing wine. Creator Spirit be present to us in the blessing and breaking of bread, present to us in the sharing of wine, your covenant of blessing for all of Creation. As we step towards your activity of reconciliation for all of creation, may this day be yours in the breaking of bread and sharing of wine.

L2:

Creator Spirit gave to the people the Easter Story. Death to Life, brokenness to wholeness. Injustice to justice. Hurt to healing.

L3:

Jesus had gathered with his disciples. It was a celebration meal, God had been with the people before, and brought them to freedom and covenant as they fled Egypt. They feasted, they recalled story and they came close to God.

L2:

When the feasting was done, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it. Each one invited to eat. This is my body Jesus said. As the bread is broken so too will my body be broken. This will be a new covenant. *(L1 to Break Bread)*

L3:

After the eating, Jesus took some wine. He blessed it as he had blessed the bread. This is my blood Jesus said. As we drink, you are coming towards God's covenant made with all. That in suffering will come hope, in hurt will come healing, in injustice will come justice, and in brokenness will come wholeness. This will be a new covenant. *(L1 to up Hold cup)*

L1:

God makes with us all across time and space a new community. Wrapped in light, love, grace, hope and healing. We are invited to share broken bread together this day because in Christ community happens. We are invited to share in wine together because in Christ community happens.

(Instructions for receiving and then an invitation for people to come when they are ready)

Liturgy written and used for the Presbytery of Tasmania, March 2023 gathering by Rev Denise Savage.

It is available for use wherever God's people come together to break bread and share the fruit of the vine.