



April 6, 2023

Call to Worship

One: Come and remember the love of Jesus, gathered at table with his friends.

Many: We come to receive from Christ the bread of life, the cup of blessing;

One: Come, receive the tender service Christ offers each of us;

Many: We come to receive the challenge of the new commandment: "Love one another."

One: Come and contemplate the many temptations of a world that would entice us, like Judas, to betray the trust of a suffering God.

Many: We come to travel with Jesus the way of the Cross, so that our Easter "alleluia" will take on new meaning.

One: Let us worship together and reflect upon the life of Christ,

Many: that we might remember what discipleship may cost, and what it may reap.

• **Hymn: VU #593** *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

Scripture Reading *John 13:1-5, 12-15*

Foot- and Hand-Washing Ritual

Reprise Hymn: *Jesu, Jesu* (chorus only)

Questions for Reflection

- What was it like to wash another person's feet or hands? If you chose not to wash, what did you witness as others washed each other's feet or hands?
- Jesus flipped traditional servant-master roles by washing his disciples' feet. Where do you see such role-reversals in the world today? Where might such role-reversals be helpful?
- How might the world be different if the rich and powerful of the world sought to serve others in the way that Jesus did?

Community Prayer & Lord's Prayer

• **Hymn VU 457** *As We Gather at Your Table* (v 1-2)

Invited to the Table (adapted from A Song of Faith)

One: Carrying a vision of creation healed and restored,

Many: we welcome all in the name of Christ.

One: Invited to the table where none shall go hungry,

Many: we gather as Christ's guests and friends.

One: In holy communion we are commissioned to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. The open table speaks of the shining promise of barriers broken and creation healed.

Many: In the communion meal, wine poured out and bread broken, we remember Jesus.

One: We remember not only the promise but also the price that he paid

Many: for who he was, for what he did and said, and for the world's brokenness.

One: We taste the mystery of God's great love for us,

Many: and are renewed in faith and hope.

Sharing in Holy Communion

Prayer After Receiving (written by Alydia Smith)

Many: Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to: feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

• **Reprise Hymn:**

VU #457 *As We Gather at Your Table* (v. 3)

Sending Words

One: God puts a song in our hearts, So let's go forth from this time and place singing of Christ's example and sacrifice.

Many: We cannot keep from singing. Glory to God! Amen.
