

IMAGO DEI: A COMMUNION LITURGY

Invitation:

One: Come just as you are for our God relishes diversity.
 Come and be embraced as a joint heir with Christ Jesus.
 Come and become one with the God who loves you.
 Come to this table where you belong.

Confession:

One: You have gifted us with diversity, yet we have rejected Your gift. We have whitewashed Your creativity and toned down the sparkle of Your joy.

All: To show our repentance, we will deepen our appreciation of all the wondrous diversity in this world.

One: We have rejected Your generous expression of equity, as You invite all to live as joint heirs with Jesus. We have built walls to exclude others. We have born false witness against Your generous invitation to all.

All: To show our repentance we will seek to embrace all people as Your beloved family.

One: You choose to include everyone, to open wide the gates of Your kingdom, while we have worked against You. We have turned Your beloved children away, viewing them as unworthy to be with us in Your presence.

All: To show our repentance we will welcome everyone in Your name with joy and celebration.

Words of Assurance:

One: You are created in the diverse, equitable, inclusive image of God. Continue being perfected in love, for in the name of the Holy Trinity you are forgiven.

All: You are created in the diverse, equitable, inclusive image of God. Continue being perfected in love, for in the name of the Holy Trinity you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving:

One: God is with everyone.

All: We are included.

One: God delights in who we are.

All: We are wonderfully and awesomely made.

One: Our full acceptance feels glorious,

All: Filling our hearts with peace and gratitude.

One: We are the sparkle of joy in Your eye.
 We are the sound of Your laughter throughout the land.
 You have created us all in many unique ways,
 so that we might fit together seamlessly with all Your creation.
 We are all part of a masterpiece filled with theme and variation.
 We are all part of Your song of rejoicing
 filled with syncopated rhythms and intricate harmonies.
 Each of us is but a single pixel, all of us necessary, equally important,
 to the fullness of Your vast creation,
 stretching throughout all of time and space.
 Together we form the fullest expression of the Imago Dei,
 worshiping God through the divine attributes
 of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 Become quiet and listen as heaven and earth proclaim:

**All: Praise the Creator of all diversity.
 Praise the Savior of all with equity.
 Praise the Spirit with the inclusion of all.
 Let everything that breaths praise the Lord!
 Praise the Lord!**

One: Holy Trinity, You are diverse, equitable, and inclusive,
and You lived those divine traits through the life of Jesus.
Jesus called a diverse array of disciples:
They were gender diverse;
They were from diverse classes of people;
with differing beliefs and attitudes.
Jesus treated all people with equity,
showing concern for women and children;
believers and unbelievers;
the oppressed and oppressors;
the unclean and the clean.
Jesus included everyone in his love,
and was saddened when some excluded themselves needlessly.

Jesus saw others as being equal with himself,
so when a servant was needed to show hospitality
Jesus took a towel and basin to wash everyone's feet, himself.

Jesus saw others as being equal with himself,
so when he took the bread of Passover to bless and break it,
He gave it to all, saying: "Take and eat,
this is my body broken and given for you."

Jesus saw others as equal with himself,
so when he took the Passover wine to bless it,
He shared it with all, saying: "Drink with me,
each of you, for this is the cup of my blood,
an offering poured out in acknowledgment of
God's covenant of grace promising salvation to all."

Jesus was able to see us, with the eyes of the Trinity.
Jesus embraces our diverse creation.

Jesus, with humility, saw the importance of every life.
 Jesus, with love, seeks to save every soul.
 We want to live like this too,
 embracing this sacred mystery of our faith, we now proclaim:

**All: Christ has died, a sacrifice for all.
 Christ has risen, so that all can rise.
 Christ will come again, leaving no one behind.**

One: Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive Spirit
 reveal for us in these gifts of bread and wine
 the tangible body and blood of Christ
 sacrificed for all.

Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive Spirit
 reveal for others through the way we live our lives
 Your church, the tangible body and bride of Christ
 sacrificed for all.

Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive Spirit
 reveal Your presence through our lives.
 Open our hearts to the gift of human diversity in all its forms.
 Humble our lives to better treat everyone with equity.
 Break down our walls so that no one is excluded by us from Your presence.
 We ask this in the powerful name of the Trinity,
 expressed in diverse ways, equitable in every relationship,
 with an expansive inclusion.
 May They be praised continually in heaven and on earth. Amen.

Now let us pray after the example given by Jesus Christ:

All: **Imago Dei, diversity, equity, inclusion, holy are all Your ways.
May we reflect Your glory in the living of our days.
Provide for us as You meet the needs of all.
Forgive the multitude of sins we have committed against others,
as we forgive the few sins that others have committed against us.
Keep us open, questioning, and humble,
leading us away from close-minded pride and arrogance.
For You invite us to become one with You, one with all others,
and one with the whole of creation. Amen.**

Prayer After Communion:

We are grateful to be invited to share in the holy Mystery celebrated around this table. You have included us, coming from many diverse realities. You treat us all with equity. You invited all of us to become one with You as part of the Sacred Dance of the Trinity. This is the good news we feel compelled to share with others. We know of Your burning desire to add their distinctiveness along with our own. May we all become one in You and You in us, joined together in Your great love shared with all through Jesus Christ. Amen.