

That You continually seek and save the lost
When we had broken relationship with God
Jesus called us home.
He shared a meal with His friends,
and shared his life with the world
In Christ, the world is reconciled to God
As He lifted the bread and blessed it, Jesus gave it a new power
This is my flesh, broken so that you may be whole
As He lifted the cup and blessed it, Jesus transformed its purpose
This is my life-blood, given so that you may have life.
As He gave the bread and wine to His friends,
He gives Himself to us in this meal.
We are broken people, with broken lives and relationships
We have done nothing which makes us deserving of God's love
It is Your compassion and goodness that invites us to this meal;
To this moment of healing.
Feed us, and reconcile us with ourselves, with others and with You.
For Christ's sake. Amen.

Communion is received.

We Offer Ourselves

Thank You, Loving God
For sharing this meal with us
For sharing Your life with us
For sharing Your promise of eternity with us now.
We go as emissaries of God's love and power
To reconcile the divided,
To restore the fragmented,
And to embrace the rejected

In His Name.

To tell the story of a Kingdom
where all are welcome and at one.
Where God's world finds its purpose
in the eternal song of love.

The unearned favour of Christ
The unending love of God
The unbroken friendship of the Holy Spirit
be with us always. Amen.

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A Liturgy for the Agape

We Gather at the Altar

Giver of every good and undeserved blessing
Once again, we unwrap with expectation the gift of this place;
This house formed by human hands, but filled with God;
This centre of healing, love and shared life.
We thank You, Generous God, for the gift of this place
Once again, we embrace with hope the gift of this time;
These sacred seconds called from our brief lives,
and filled with eternity;
This momentary joining of journeys
We thank You, Generous God, for the gift of this time
Once again, we join ourselves with You and with each other
through our worship;
Through these prayers and these praises;
Through these lives and their love.
And wrapped in this time and this place
We make of ourselves a gift to You.
And may this offering fill Your heart with joy as we rejoice in You. Amen.

We Offer Our Praises & Confessions

Because of Your extravagant nurture,
We find a safe place in You, O God.
You gave us Your breath and Your image;
You spoke the name of each child
and wrapped us in the warm embrace of Your Mother-love.
We believe in You, O God.
In our words we praise You,

and in our doings we long to imitate You.
Forgive us when we rob others of safety and care.
Because of Your extravagant invitation,
We find wholeness in You, O God.
You became as we are in flesh and experience;
You shared our suffering in body, mind and spirit;
You rescued us from death and gifted us with life.
We believe in You, O God.
In our hearts we celebrate You,
and in our relationships we long to give as You do.
Forgive us when we ignore the pain of others
and when we make it harder for them to love You.
Because of Your extravagant generosity,
We find abundance in You, O God.
You made us - each one and together - a home for Your Spirit
You filled us with a vision of hope and community
which helps us make sense of life
You cause each moment to be pregnant
with the potential for love and healing.
We believe in You, O God.
In all that we are we seek to please You,
and in all that we do we seek to mirror You.
Forgive us when life in this world
causes us to forget the life and love we find in You;
When we isolate ourselves and others,
and when we let our brokenness have the last word.
Enable us to make one what we believe, what we say and what we do.
For the sake of the One who is our life. Amen.

We Offer Our Prayers

This prayer can begin with a time of silence in which worshippers can offer their own personal needs and requests to God. Pieces of note paper can be given to each worshipper on which to write the names of those with whom reconciliation is needed, or to whom care can be given. This list can guide and motivate acts of care and forgiveness in the coming days.

It is before Your altar that we bow, Eternal Friend.
And it is on this altar that we lay the burdens of our hearts.
You have gifted us with companions to walk with us on the way.
Loved ones and friends that we carry in our hearts.
They encourage and strengthen us.
They inspire and comfort us.

They bring us security and joy.
We pray that our love for them may be life-giving;
and we long for You to bless them as they have blessed us.
You have filled our world with neighbours
who touch our lives with surprising reflections of You.
Through them You call us beyond ourselves,
and teach us the lessons of compassion.
We yearn to see all people as bearers of Your image.
May the welcome and service we give our neighbours
offer them the dignity You have given us.
You bring us face to face with adversaries
who challenge and unsettle us.
Their gift is the shaking of our faith
which strengthens its foundations and removes complacency.
Give us the courage to embrace the discomfort,
and the humility to bless those who curse us.
May we find and share the healing which forgiveness brings.
Thank You, Friend of Humanity,
for connecting us with others.
May our prayers, spoken and performed,
be the gentle fragrance of life to each one who enters our circle.
The Lord's Prayer may be said together.

We Offer Peace

"I give you My peace," said the Prince of Peace.
Let us share His gift among ourselves and all humanity.
God's peace - beyond understanding - be always yours.

The peace is shared.

We Offer Thanksgiving

The hands of God are engraved with our names.
The heart of God holds us in an unbreakable embrace
The compassion of God frees us from the power of hatred,
selfishness and death.
We thank You, God of Love
That You never abandon or neglect us.
In our moments of rebellion, God is patient
In our quest for independence, God is faithful
In our ignorance and pride, God is kind and gentle
We thank You, God of Love