**Intro to Communion** VU 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v1)

**Communion**

The prophets foretold it: the desert burst into bloom!

Angelic messengers delivered news.

From that Bethlehem beginning,

Jesus spent his life serving others,

That all might know the compassionate care of a loving God.

Today, Jesus serves us yet again

As we gather at this table prepared for us.

Together we are the Body of Christ.

 **At this table, we bear witness to our faith.**

At this table God brings wholeness out of brokenness

And healing to our world.

 **Let us break bread together.**

Blessings be to you, Creator God, who in the beginning brought light and life to the world,

And who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

 **Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages;**

 **Your ancient promise still brings us hope.**

**Response** VU 1 O Come O Come Emmanuel (v2)

Dear Jesus of Advent,

You remain a sacred mystery to us.

You have brought Good News for all the people,

And we will not be afraid,

For you are here.

 **We are hungry for your love,**

 **Which surpasses our understanding;**

 **We are thirsty for your Spirit**

 **That never runs dry.**

 **In this meal,**

 **Nourish our souls and our minds,**

 **Quench our deepest longings**

 **And forgive our limitations,**

 **That we may walk with you**

 **Every day of our lives.**

**Response** VU 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v5)

As we prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth,

We remember the life that this baby lived.

We remember how he broke

The bonds of human tradition to show all

What the banquet of hope could be,

As he ate openly with those who were

Despised and outcast in his world.

And we remember one special meal,

the one he ate with his closest friends.

And at the end of the meal he took bread,

Blessed it and broke it,

And then passed it to them, saying:
 **Take and eat.**

 **This bread is the body of life,**

 **Broken by the world.**

 **Eat it in remembrance and in hope.**

The bread of life (*bread is broken)*

After that, Jesus took the cup, poured it, blessed it,

And passed it to them, saying:

 **This cup is the sign of the new covenant.**

 **Whenever you drink it, remember me.**

The cup of blessing (*the cup is filled)*

Remembering the birth of the child in the stable,

We remember also his life, his death and his resurrection.

We remember how he poured his love

Out to all he met.

We look forward to the world

Reflecting back his peace, love and justice.

And in our remembering, we declare the mystery

Of our faith:

 **Christ had died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**Response** VU1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v6)

Holy God, you poured your Spirit on Mary

And she sang words of wonder and hope.

Pour out your Spirit upon up gathered here.

As we eat and drink,

May we know your presence.

As we eat and drink,

May we be opened to new possibilities.

May we be strengthened in our time of waiting for hope

And justice,

So that we will have the courage to follow

The Christmas promise.

These are the gift of God for the people of God,

All are welcome to share in the feast!

**Sharing the Meal**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**God of Christmas promise, God of childlike hope,**

**We thank you for this holy mystery**

**In which you have given yourself to us.**

**In this meal, we have been replenished**

**And strengthened,**

**the light of your love rekindled within us.**

**May we be beacons of peace and hope**

**As we wait for the day when the world will be changed.**

**These things we pray. Amen**

**Response** VU 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v7)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion