

PRAXIS SOUTH

a meal with friends – 18th May 2017

THE GATHERING

We give thanks to God,
Who has created us and our world.
We give thanks to Jesus Christ,
Who shared our everyday life with us.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME OVER NIBBLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please light the table candles
continues until...*

The God of heaven has made his home on earth.
Christ dwells among us and is one with us.
Highest in all creation, he lives among the least,
**He journeys with the rejected and
welcomes the weary.**

Come now all who thirst
and drink the water of life.
Come now all who hunger
and be filled with good things.
Come now all who seek
and be warmed by the fire of love.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*During the next prayer, if you wish, please write or draw anything
that comes to mind in the cross shaped box.*

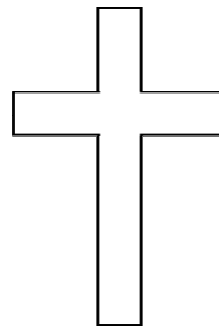
Here we gather;
**To receive again your promise that when
we call, you will hear, and that when we
confess our wrongdoings you will forgive us
and remember our sin no more.**

The Father is always present.

Forgive us for not reflecting faithfulness.
Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

The Son is always self-giving.
Forgive us for living for ourselves.
Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

The Spirit always leads us on.
Forgive us for holding back.
Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.



*Please dip your finger in your wine or water and mark a cross in
the box*

ABSOLUTION

God the Creator and Sustainer: Father, Son and
Holy Spirit, forgive us our sins and restore us to
unity with him, each other, and all the created
order. **Amen**

COLLECT

READING

John 15.9-17

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now
remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will
remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands

and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy
may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My
command is this: love each other as I have loved you.
¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for
one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command.
¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not
know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends,
for everything that I learned from my Father I have made
known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and
appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that
will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father
will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

TALK

DISCUSSION OVER FOOD

*As we eat together you may want to share your story and discuss
with your neighbours, some of the following questions:*

- Despite Jesus’ command, does the church still prefer the model of ‘servant’ to ‘friend’ of Christ?
- Can you identify different kinds of friends amongst your network? Do you have any / many ‘virtuous’ friends?
- If we see our Church community as ‘Friends of Christ’, how might that shape the way we reach out to others?

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God above us, maker and
sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of
water and earth, of male and female.**
**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh, born of a woman’s
womb, servant of the poor. He was
tortured and nailed to a tree: a man of
sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended
into the earth, to the place of death. On
the third day he arose from the tomb. He
ascended into heaven to be everywhere
present, and we wait for his coming again
when his kingdom will come on earth.**

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of living fire, life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of life everlasting. Amen

INTERCESSIONS

During our prayers we reflect and remember those who spend this night friendless and alone, those whose relationships are devastated by violence and warfare.

We give thanks for the good things we enjoy, and the network of loving relationships that sustain us.

THE PEACE

Peace in your thinking. Peace in your hearts.
Peace with creation. Peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share God's peace with each other.

We share a greeting with those seated around us

SHARED REMEMBERING

In this meal we meet once again with the risen Christ; in the place where he felt most at home – around a table.

So, tonight we remember:

an earthly existence characterised by an earthy life: and that he revelled in the pleasure of conversing with friends.

He enjoyed the warmth of a meal shared with those he loved, where the wine flowed and the food was plentiful.

He knew the pain of betrayal by those whom he had trusted, valued the variety of characters that were his followers;

the reserved, the impetuous, the compassionate, the slow to learn.

He received the hospitality of those who longed to share their bounty,
and risked contact and conversation with the unauthorised and unwanted.

He unashamedly wore the badge:
'friend of the outcast: a glutton and a drunkard'.

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God

It is right to give both thanks and praise.

continues until...

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty, heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest.

continues until...

THE ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Lord Christ!

Your death we show forth, your resurrection we proclaim, your coming we await. Amen! Come, Lord Jesus, come!

continues until...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As friends of Christ, invested in the life of the Kingdom, we pray;

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING IN GOD'S HOSPITALITY

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body for we all share the same bread.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

INVITATION

Please pass the bread & wine to your neighbour from table to table, with the words 'the body of Christ' and 'the blood of Christ', until everyone who wants has shared.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

CONVERSATION OVER CAKE

Please feel free to move around and chat to friends on other tables

CLOSING BLESSING

To conclude our evening together – holding our picture cards – a reminder of friendship's diversity

Bless to us O God;

The moon that is above us, the earth that is beneath us, the friends who are around us, your image deep within us: the night that is before us. Amen.