**(Speaker 1)** Communion is an ancient word that comes the Latin word meaning “sharing in common” referring to coming into union with God. It is a sacrament or holy practice of the church, when we remember the story of God, centered on Jesus for the redemption of the world, that began the movement that we still continue today.

Before we start I wanted to explain how it will work.  We will be lead through the liturgy, and there are a few parts in which you will respond, and you will be prompted to do so when it is time.

It will end with communion stations set up around the room.  When we tell you, you will go to the station nearest you where you will be given a piece of bread, take it and dip it into the cup of grape juice and eat. (We want everyone to feel welcome at the table, so the bread is gluten free, egg free, soy free, shellfish free, tree-nut free, peanut free, dairy free, fish free, and vegan.) There will also be a person with anointing oil, which is traditionally been used for anyone in need of healing or in sending of those in mission to the world.  If you would like to be anointed with oil for either, simply stop at the person holding the oil for an anointing and blessing.

Now, hear the story, put yourself into the story, this is our story, God’s story.

**(Speaker 2)**

**LEADER**: We come today broken, hurting, and lost; so we cry out to God that we are not enough in and of ourselves.

**ALL**: **Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be the church.
We have not done your will,
  We have been selfish instead of selfless,
  We have been greedy instead of giving,
  we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves,
  and we have not heard the cry of those who need help around us.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us so that we may weave our lives closer together**

**As we all follow the way of Jesus,
     through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Pray in Silence**

**Leader**: Hear the Good news, Jesus died for us while we were still sinners

This proves God’s love to us, In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven

**ALL**: **In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven**

**Leader:**  Glory to God

**ALL:** **AMEN.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.
**All:** **And also with you.**Leader:Lift up your hearts.
**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**All:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**(Speaker 3)**

In the beginning there was nothing, but God. God spoke and life was birthed and all was created. Creation began in a single thread, humankind created in God’s image, the imago Dei. Each of us bears this thread, this reflection of who God is; created not just for the purpose of creation, but also for a relationship with God.

But through sin, this relationship has been broken. The image has been blurred but not erased. Since that time, God has sought to restore that relationship with humankind.

We see this through Covenant with Abraham, a holy agreement, that you would be our God and we would be your people.

We see this through Freedom from slavery in Egypt to sin and death

We see this through rulers, kings, judges, and prophets; like Deborah, King Solomon, King David, Elijah, Isaiah and so many others.

God reached out and continues to reach out, over and over, to restore...and yet, we turn away and our love fails…. but God’s love remains steadfast.

**(Speaker 4)**

In an ultimate act of reaching out, God comes down to walk with us.  This is Jesus. God with us, reaching out by taking on flesh and blood and moving into the neighborhood.

Through Jesus’s life and teaching, we are reminded of the thread, the image, that we all have within us. Jesus preached good news to the poor, freedom to the slaves, recovery of sight to the blind, and announced that the time had come to heal all people.  He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

Through his death and resurrection, He made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit; a covenant that meant that God would be with us always.

**(Speaker 5)** We remember that night when Jesus gathered in a upper room with his close friends. There the story comes to life in front of us, the same story that has been told over many years, passed down over generations, the story that goes like this:

(**Speaker 6- Center Person) T**hey gathered around the table, he gave thanks and broke the bread.(LIFT BREAD AND BREAK BREAD) He gave it to his disciples and said take and eat, this is my body broken for you so that you might all have freedom from the things that hold you back giving you a new way, the way to live life to the fullest.

(LIFT CUP) Then he took the cup, he offered thanks and gave it to his friends, and said this is my blood that has been poured out for you so that you might no longer believe salvation is up to you, but it is forgiveness, offered freely to you today through me.

**(Speaker 5)** This reminds us each time we celebrate this story and this table, that none of this is up to us, but that hope is woven into our lives from the one whom the story is about, the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the one from whom life flows. Reminding us that in the moments where we find ourselves at a loss and all alone, God is looking for us, Jesus is the single thread sewn throughout our lives, drawing us back home and drawing us together as one.

**(Elder or Licensed Local Pastor)** LET US PRAY:
Loving God, we pray that your presence would be felt in this place,

that your Holy Spirit would come upon us and on these gifts of bread and cup.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ
together as a new creation and a new community,

that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, the single thread,

One with each other, a cord of three,

and one in ministry to all the world, as a holy tapestry,

Until Christ comes in final victory and we all feast at his

Heavenly banquet.

Through your son Jesus Christ, with the holy spirit in your holy church,

All honor and glory is yours almighty God

Now and forever.

And now let us join together in one voice,

As those who have been set free,

in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**LORDS PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.**

**Amen.**

**(Elder or Licensed Local Pastor)** Would those who are serving please come.

(After stations are ready)

**(Elder or Licensed Local Pastor)** Christ invites us to the table to be a part of the tapestry that began long ago. This table is not a United Methodist table, it is God’s table, open to all who are seeking Christ. When you are ready, you may go to the station nearest you. Keep in mind that there will be anointing oil at each station for those who would like to receive it. During this time, please be reverent and holy, and be in a time of prayer as others are also responding to this same invitation in their own lives.