

Church Within A Church Movement Communion Service for General Conference 2012

Words of Welcome

A Litany of Community Romans 12:3-9a

One: The response from the gathered body will be, “We belong to each other.”

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: Just as each of us has one body with many members— and these members don’t have the same function—

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: If your gift is ministry, use it for service.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: If you are a teacher, use your gift for teaching.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: If you give to charity, do so generously;

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care;

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: if you help others, do so cheerfully.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: Your love must be sincere.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: As we continue into a time of Communion, we will, from time to time, repeat the words, “We belong to each other.”

One: In the midst of the harm,

One: in the midst the silencing,

One: in the midst of the demeaning,

One: in the midst of the invisibility,

One: in the midst of the maneuvering,

One: in the midst of the politicking,

One: in the midst of the isolating,

One: in the midst of the distrust,

One: in the midst of the lack of care,

One: in the midst of the dis-location,

One: in the midst of the harm, the harm, the harm

One: God says, “You are mine.”

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: Are you hungry? Here is food.

One: Are you thirsty? Here is drink.

One: To come to this table is to affirm abundant life---- to acknowledge the reality of our lives and encourage one another.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: Jesus joined disciples and friends at the table, listening closely as those companions spoke of physical, mental and spiritual anguish, all the while aware of a personal sorrow-filled heart.

And then Jesus lifted the bread in thanksgiving.

One: Embraced by the love of friends, Jesus took the bread and broke it. The broken bread is a sign of shared life; receive it with hope and share it with certainty. With bread, God fed each beloved child in the desert.

With bread, the children of God have eaten meals of mourning, waiting for a redeemer, hoping for justice.

In joy and in grief, in peace and in outrage---- in all times, we may be sure that the Bread of Life will sustain us.

One: A small portion of the bread was broken over and over----

One: to become the healing meal for thousands.

One: In the same way, may any brokenness in us become a source of action, of fullness,

One: of wholeness, of overflowing justice.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: After the meal, Jesus lifted the cup---- the cup that goes beyond sorrow to consolation; beyond despair to hope. With thankfulness, Jesus said:

Take and drink, and remember you are not alone. This is the cup of Life. We are nourished in our bodies,

our spirits, our minds, and our hearts as we share this cup. As we drink, we remember Jesus and friends, drinking as one.

One: Drink deeply, absorb the Life offered.

One: Drink the cup to affirm community and to celebrate life as a gift from God.

MANY: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

One: Let us pray.

BOTH: Gracious God, we ask your blessings on this bread and this cup. As we gather at your table, we ask that your Spirit of love and grace dine with us. Amen.

One: The table is set for you.

One: We want you to eat.

One: We want you to drink.

BOTH: Come.

Prayer of Thanks and Benediction after Communion

Priests for Equality (2009-03-16). The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (Kindle Locations 72487-72498). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.