Invitational Song to Holy Communion
Let Us Break Bread Together
On our knees

EUCHARIST (20 -25)

LITANY OF CONFESSION and REpentance

Invitation
Bishop speaks: Beloved, come to the table of the Lord with hearts open to repentance, confession and change.

1st verse of Kyrie (video)
There are no words that can contain the depth of sorrow, grief and pain That mothers, sons, and all exclaim:
Kyrie eleison!

Bishop speaks:
Holy God, we come before you with hearts full of pain, and our bones crushed by the weight of sin. We come in confession and repentance
Lord have mercy!
Kyrie eleison!

2nd Verse of Kyrie (video)
"It is enough!", the prophets cry Yet still black men are doomed to die By those who wish to vilify:
Kyrie eleison!

3rd Verse of Kyrie (video)
It is enough! The harm must cease from warring madness by police Who are sworn to protect, keep peace:
Kyrie eleison!

Bishop speaks:
For the comfort we have secured with our silence, For our lack of action in the face of racism, white supremacy and privilege We come in confession and repentance Lord, have mercy.
Kyrie eleison

4th Verse of Kyrie (video)
4. It is enough! We cannot wait!
No more excuse for bias, hate!
Your savagery we cannot take:
Christe eleison!

Bishop speaks:
For our refusal to move from acts of mercy to acts of justice,
For our refusal to engage the discomfort of biblical obedience,
For our refusal to name and dismantle personal and institutional racism,
We come in confession and repentance
Lord, have mercy.
Kyrie eleison

5th Verse of Kyrie (video)
5. It is enough! We cannot breathe!
Will you stand there and watch us bleed?
Are you not moved by cries and pleas?
Christe eleison!

Bishop speaks:
For creating and sustaining a system
that places its value in counting numbers.
For the hypocrisy of touting our creeds, and claiming our diversity
while continuing to be a church that is 93% white,
We come in confession and repentance
Lord, have mercy.
Kyrie eleison

6th Verse of Kyrie (video)
6. No! No more death! It is enough!
No more dead sons! It is enough!
No! No more tears for lives cut short:
Christe eleison!

Bishop speaks:
For the commodification - historic and present - of our siblings in Africa,
using them as bargaining tools and expendable resources.
For denying your image in them,
and impeding their ability to express their thoughts,
and share their wisdom.
We come in confession and repentance
Lord, have mercy.
Christe eleison

7th Verse of Kyrie (video)
7. O my soul, it aches and yearns
For a day when passions burn
For others with deep love, concern:
Kyrie eleison!

Bishop speaks:
For the abandonment of our cities and urban centers,
leaving congregations of black and brown people to deal with
massive debt and crumbling church buildings.
For the duplicity and dishonesty of holding congregations of people of color accountable for self-sustainability, even as their communities choke on minimum wages. We come in confession and repentance
  Lord, have mercy!
  Christe eleison

8th Verse of Kyrie (video)
  8. I’ve had enough of these charades,
     Of clichés and hasty crusades
     Whose triteness wounds and cuts like blades:
       Kyrie eleison!

Bishop Speaks:
  For our insidious and endless theological debates, while people of color are dehumanized by racist policing, profiling, discrimination, and transphobia. We come in confession and repentance.
  Lord, have mercy!
  Kyrie eleison

9th Verse of Kyrie (video)
  There are no words that can contain
  The depth of wounds our souls sustain
  Each time a grieving heart exclaims:
    Kyrie eleison!

Bishop speaks:
  For our failure to be an obedient church, For not having done your will,
  For breaking your law and rebelling against your love, For not loving our neighbors,
  And not hearing the cry of the needy, Forgive us, we pray,
  Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

This is the day of new beginnings. The grace of God, that goes before us, is able to transform all things and make us new. We are called to lean into the sanctifying grace of God, that calls us to peace with one another.

Will you share that peace, now.

(Bishop please contextualize how this peace sharing will take place in the midst of social distancing.)
The Great Thanksgiving Prayer - I Can't Breathe

Bishop speaks:

The Lord be with You

**And also with You**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift up our hearts to the Lord**

Music leader sings

//Let it breathe on me

Let it breathe on me

Let the breath of the Lord

Now breathe on me//

Bishop speaks

Holy Breath. Moving Breath. Creating Breath. You moved on the face of the waters to create all that is life, and life-giving. You breathed into us the breath of life, so that with it we may love you and love each other as ourselves.

Yet, even when we have failed to value this sacred breath, you do not leave us breathless or alone. You call us into reconciliation and the work of peace.

Please repeat after me:

Until ALL can breathe,

**Until ALL can breathe,**

WE cannot breathe.

**WE cannot breathe.**

Music leader sings

//While I'm working Lord in your vineyard here,

I can do naught if Thou aren't near.//

Bishop speaks

In spite of all this, like a mighty rushing wind that cannot be stopped, your love sweeps into our dried and dead hearts. Our bones are rattled, and once again we breathe in deep from the well of your forgiveness, compassion, and transformation. Mercy without measure. Grace beyond compare. Breath upon breath upon breath.

Now, we join together with all of heaven and earth, and with all the saints that go before us. Like our brothers George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and our sister Breonna Taylor,
along with so many others who now breathe in the light of your love and walk with us in the midst of our pain and grief as we praise your name:

Music leader sings

*(sanctus to the same tune)*

_Holy Breath of God, Holy Breath of God_

_Heav’n and earth are full of your breath O God_

_Blessed is the One_

_Who comes in your name_

_Glory to the Holy Breath of God_

_Bishop speaks_

Life-Giving Breath and Fire Divine, you are holy and holy is Jesus, the One you sent to breathe upon us and call us your children.

He lived where we lived, walked where we walked, and ate where we ate.

He also lived where many of us don’t care to live.

He walked where far too many of us don’t care to walk, and he ate with those we would never think of inviting to our table.

Jesus shared the pain and suffering of those who were being crushed by the weight of racism, oppression, and greed that leave so many gasping for air and clinging to life.

Jesus not only shared in their pain but called them blessed.

Please repeat after me:

_Blessed are the ones who can’t breathe_

_Blessed are the ones who can’t breathe, for they will be comforted._

It was his message of love, radical inclusion, liberation and peace that caused the crowds to take the streets of Jerusalem shouting “Hosanna!”

It was his actions with the poor and marginalized that caused the powerful to try to quell their voices by falsely accusing him and sentencing him to death, the death of an asphyxiating and dehumanizing cross.

We remember that as Jesus hung on the cross, his desperate words could be heard for air, in solidarity with the breathless crying,

“I am thirsty!”

“I can’t breathe!”

“Mama!”

“It is Finished!”

On the night before his betrayal and death, Jesus gathered with his friends and shared with them the Passover. He took the bread, blessed, broke, and gave it to his disciples saying, “take and eat, this is my body given for you.”
He also took the cup, and after giving thanks shared it saying, “this is the cup of a new covenant made with you and with all the world. Eat and drink in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance and in thanksgiving for these acts of love and sacrifice, we proclaim from our pulpits to our prisons, from our sanctuaries to our streets, from this table to the halls of power the faith we now live:

Please repeat after me:

Christ has died.

Christ has died.

Christ is Risen.

Christ is Risen.

Christ is with us.

Christ is with us.

Christ will come again.

Christ will come again.

Music leader sings

//When the pathway, Lord, I cannot see,
When the way is dark, Lord, breathe on me.//

Bishop speaks:

Breathe once again, Holy God,
and pour out your Spirit on your breathless people, gathered here and everywhere.

Breathe once again, Holy God,
and pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us your body and blood
so that we can be your breath-filled body throughout the world.

Breathe on Us, Holy God!
Breathe on Us, Justice Making God!
Breathe on Us, Life Lifting God!
Fill us with the courage, the power, the passion
to make true the Holy Spirit’s message we hear on our streets today:

BLACK LIVES MATTER!
Please say it with me:
BLACK LIVES MATTER!
(you may repeat this for as many time as the Holy Spirit leads)

Bishop continues

When black voices rise,
all voices rise,
and abundant life is available to all.
Lift Every Voice and Sing (1&2)
I invite you to pray the prayer Jesus taught us, but in a different and perhaps uncomfortable way.

In remembrance of Jesus’ death
and in solidarity with the last minutes of our brother George Floyd’s life,
let us center on the Lord’s prayer for 8 minutes and 46 seconds.
using any posture you would like to use.
You may kneel, lay on the ground, walk in a circle,
whatever you need to do to hold this silence.
(Silence and Images)

Verse 3 God of Our Weary Years…(Cynthia sings out of the silence)

Bishop speaks after verse 3:

The broken bread of a broken body, for a broken world.

(pause)

The cup of life for a world that longs to breath new life.

For those of you who are joining us virtually, we acknowledge that we are in a season that nothing is clear in the world, including the decision of virtual consecration of elements. We invite you to follow your heart’s conviction as you consider the spiritual leadership of your episcopal leader.
Some of you may choose to partake in the bread and cup, and some just as witnesses of those gathered here.

For those of us here in person,
in the United Methodist Church we observe an open table, which means all are invited, all are welcome. There are no requirements to participate.

Communion music: There Is A Balm Songs of Zion #123

Bishop speaks:

Beloved, as we leave this physical and cyber space, let us not leave this holy space where the Spirit of God is inviting us to enter in.

Let us be courageous and intentionally committed to this time, when God is calling us to discover the power of breath, and our sacred responsibility to ensure that all can breathe.

Let us make room for God to breathe on us once again as we journey together, pressing on toward the goal of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.
Closing Song
Ain’t Gonna let Nobody Turn me Around