

# The Wesley Guild

A Communion Service for Guild Occasions

(Prepared by Revd. Michael Webster)



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**WESLEY GUILD**  
**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Introductory sentence:** "I shall give them singleness of heart and one way of life, so that they shall fear me at all times, for their own good and the good of their children after them." (Jeremiah 32 v38)

**Hymn**

**Prayer:** God, you are our Creator and our Redeemer; you are love at our beginning and our ending, in our midst at this moment and going ahead of us into our future. We want to be people of one heart with you, following your way, but we confess that we have not lived up to your call or our hopes.

**In our hearts we have cherished things that have divided us from others and separated us from you. We have pursued unworthy ambitions, flirted with temptation. We have been despondent about ourselves and given up hope for your world. We have harboured feelings of bitterness and self-pity. We have not kept to your way of righteousness and compassion. We have been obsessed with the trivial rather than face your challenge to take up our cross. We have relaxed into a sense of easy complacency rather than follow the way of costly sacrifice. We have not shared your passion for peace and justice.**

**Silence**

In his great mercy God forgives us; let us forgive one another; let us forgive ourselves.

The invitation is from Christ himself. The bread and wine we receive remind us he is here with us., renewing our lives. His invitation is to all who need his love or lack his joy.

Whoever we are, whatever we have done, share the broken bread, symbol of the love and forgiveness of God offered to us all in Jesus Christ. However much we believe, however much we doubt, share the poured out wine, the symbol of the life of Christ, reviving confidence and restoring hope. Come, receive, give thanks and be joyful.

**The bread and wine are shared**

**Prayer:** Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declares your love, gives us grace and opens the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we who the spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us in the hope we have grasped; so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

**God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,  
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,  
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and worship you now  
and always. Amen**

**Hymn**

**Blessing:** May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us always.  
Go in peace, with hearts on fire with the love of God,  
to follow in the way of Christ.

**Thanks be to God. Amen**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night before his sacrifice on the Cross Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said "Take, eat. This is my body which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."  
After supper he took the cup of wine, gave you thanks, gave it to them and said "Drink from it all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, Poured out for you and for everyone, for the forgiveness of sins; do this to remember me."

**Dying you destroyed our death;  
Rising, you restored our life;  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord, send your spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Then, fed by you we can live as your people in the world, of one heart and mind with you, travelling your way to our journey's end.

The bread we break is a sharing in the Body of Christ.  
**Christ is the bread of life, food for our journey.**  
The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.  
**Christ is the true vine, bringing joy to our hearts.**

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
**have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
**have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
**grant us peace.**

**Reading (s)**

**Address**

**Prayers of thanksgiving and concern:**

We give you thanks for all that the Wesley Guild has contributed to the life of the Methodist Church, and to our church in particular. We pray for all who serve the Guild at national and local level; give them inspiration, enthusiasm and unflagging energy.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you for the challenge to explore our faith in the context of today's world. Help us seek deeper understanding with humility, integrity and confidence.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you for the many ways in which you enrich our lives. Help us to rejoice in your gift of life in all its fullness.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you for the love and support that we experience through the Guild. May all who come receive a warm welcome. Help us to be sensitive to each other's needs and alert to the Holy Spirit's prompting in our response.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you that each of us is your precious child, yet each one is unique. Help us to remain faithful to the way you have called us to follow, becoming evermore like Jesus.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you that we are part of a wider community and we pray for that community. May it be increasingly conformed to your kingdom.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you for the tradition of the Guild in supporting work overseas, especially in Nigeria. We pray that work will continue to flourish.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord graciously hear us. Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer: 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.**

**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**

## **Offering**

**Dedication:** *Generous God, because of your great goodness we have this bread and wine to bring to your table. In your hands it will become for us the bread of life and the cup of salvation.*

## **Hymn**

**Peace:** *Many grains were gathered to make this bread;  
many grapes were crushed to make this wine;  
so we who are many, each with our own story, are one in Christ.*

*The peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Let us offer one another a sign of peace.*

**The Thanksgiving:** *Loving God, down the centuries you called people to follow your way, to share the concerns of your heart. Time and again they turned away and hardened their hearts. Finally you sent your son Jesus, to be the way that we might share your love and his obedience. His way led to the cross, and beyond to glorious resurrection. Now through him all people can know the joy and delight of living in your love.*

*He continues to give himself to the outcast and despised, to the sick, the sad and the fearful; to give purpose to the aimless, meaning to the confused, hope to the desolate and challenge to the self-righteous.*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**