

**St. Paul's, Brunswick  
Non-Traditional Eucharist  
August 27, 2023**

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*We acknowledge that we stand on territory that was taken from the Abenaki people of the Wabanaki Confederacy, the people of the Dawnland. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us, that we belong to the Earth, and that we are all relatives in life. May we learn from our past sins and be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world. We ask for inspiration that we might be compelled to take action and support our native neighbors as they continue to seek their sovereignty here in Maine.*

**Opening Song: I Want to Hear Somebody Pray** Sung 3X Art: pixabay.com

I want to hear somebody pray  
I want to hear somebody pray  
Down in the valley, over yonder  
I want to hear somebody pray.



**Celebrant:** God is here!

**Response:** God is here!

**Celebrant:** Let us bless God!

**Response:** Let us bless God!

**Celebrant:** Glory to you, God, for ever!

**Response:** Glory to you, God, for ever!

**Celebrant:** God be with you.

**Response:** And also with you

**Celebrant:** Let us pray together.

**Collect** (*Collect assigned for the day adapted*) Art: [pexels.com](http://pexels.com)

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your love among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



**First Reading, Romans 12:1-8** adapted from Common English Bible Art: [pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com), Fan Pu "Happy Jesus"

**Reader (Lector):** A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

So, brothers, sisters, siblings, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing



of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we

belong to each other. We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached.

The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

**Reader (*Lector*):** Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People: Thanks be to God!**



**Song: What a Friend we Have in Jesus**  
(Sung 2x) Art: pixabay.com

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,



O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer.

**Gospel Reading, Matthew 16:13-20** *adapted from Celebrate Wonder*  
*Storybook Bible Art: gialoy.org*

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus and the disciples came to a place called Caesarea Philippi. This place had a palace and places to worship gods that were different. The disciples wondered why Jesus brought them to this place. Jesus asked them, “Who do people say is the Son of God?”

“Some people say the Son of God is John the Baptizer. Some say it’s Elijah. And others say it’s one of the prophets, like Jeremiah.” Jesus thought about this. He turned to Peter and asked, “Who do you think is the Son of God?” Peter replied, “Jesus, you are the Son of God. I believe you are the Christ.”



Jesus was happy. “Peter, you should be happy! No human told this to you. Only God could have told you I am the Son of God. You will be the leader of the church! You will teach others about me and carry on our mission of sharing God’s love.” Then Jesus told the disciples

to keep his secret and not tell anyone he was the Son of God or the Christ.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Homily/ Sharing Time

**Prayers** Let us pray for the life of the world...

For the things we are thankful for...

For our loved ones ...

For those who teach us...

For those who lead us...

For the sick and poor...

For ourselves...



## Confession and Absolution

*Is there anything you did that you are sorry for? Silently think about it in your mind.*

**Deacon:** Lord God, we are sorry for the times we have been unkind, Lord have mercy.

**ALL: Lord have mercy.**

**Deacon:** Lord God, we are sorry for the times we have forgotten you, Christ have mercy.

**ALL: Christ have mercy.**

**Deacon:** Lord God, we ask you to forgive us, Lord have mercy.

**ALL: Lord have mercy.**

## **Prayer For Forgiveness**

**Celebrant:** Holy God, have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins, and bring you to eternal life.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Special Blessings/ Prayers** *(do you have a birthday/ anniversary/ something special you'd like us to pray for?)*

Watch over your children, God, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Bring them comfort when they are sad or sick, help them up if they fall, and bring your peace into their hearts. Amen.

## **Peace**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be always with you!

**People: And also with you!**

## **Announcements**

**Offertory Music** *(the parade to bring up the elements while collection plate is passed)*

*Eucharistic Prayer written by The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund*

## **Great Thanksgiving**

God be with you.

*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them up to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

**Celebrant:** God, you are the Creator of the heavens and the earth. You have filled the world with the beauty of oceans and rivers; mountains, granite, apple trees and lupine; moose, deer, chickadees, cats, dogs and lobsters. Thank you for this earth “our island home.” You sent Jesus your Son to be one of us. He died to redeem us and all Creation. Jesus rose from the dead to give us new life and make the world new. That’s why we shout out our praise! We shout with the throngs of angels, archangels and with all the heavenly host. We shout our praise together:

**Holy, Holy, Holy LORD,  
 God of power and might.  
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna in the highest.**

We bring you bread and wine as our offering. Bless them with your Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus. On the night of his last supper with his friends, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God for it, broke it apart, shared it with his friends, and said, "Take, eat. This bread is my Body which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

After they finished supper, he took the cup of wine. Jesus gave thanks to God and said to his friends, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood which is poured out for you. It is poured out for all to save us from our sins. Drink this to remember me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!**

Gather us up by this bread and wine and make us the Body of Christ in God’s church. Make us new people in Christ’s Spirit. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN!**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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 for ever. Amen.**

## **Fraction (*break bread*)**

Be known to us Jesus in the breaking of the bread. We are the communion of Christ's Body.

**We share one bread together.**

## **Invitation Holy Food for Holy People.**

## **Administration of Sacrament The body of Christ, the bread of life!**

*Welcome to our digital congregation. We invite you to connect with Christ's communion by saying the following prayer.*

### ***A Prayer for Spiritual Communion***

*O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

**Thanksgiving (Post Communion Prayer)** – Loving God, we are grateful for the love that we share in this community and in Your Holy Food. Send us into the world to listen to our neighbors with hearts of love, and to share the Good News of Jesus. Amen.



**Blessing** *from BCP*

Life is short,  
And we do not have much time  
to gladden the hearts of those who  
make the journey with us.  
So... be swift to love,  
and make haste to be kind.  
And the blessing of God,  
who made us,  
who loves us,  
and who travels with us  
be with you now and forever.  
Amen.

**Song: Go Now In Peace** *art: pixabay.com*

Go now in peace  
Go now in peace  
May the love of God surround you  
Everywhere, Everywhere  
You may go!

**Dismissal**

Leader: Let us go forth in peace in the love of Jesus! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**