***AT HOME EDITION***

**A Sacred Meal for a Dispersed Community available to the**

 **Church of New Hampshire**

**Epiphany 2021**

*Acknowledging that our church communities are not gathered in the same physical space in the same way that Jesus gathered in the Upper Room with his disciples on the night before he suffered, we can still worship at home, with our households or on our own, and join spiritually with those who also celebrate this agape meal. We do so out of the yearning for closeness expressed by our Savior who said, “I have eagerly desired to share this Passover with you before I suffer.” (Luke 22:15)*

*Participants are invited to have a candle and ceremonial food prepared and laid out on a table. Bread could be flatbread, crackers or challah; drink could be wine, grape juice, cider, water.*

**Opening Sentences[[1]](#footnote-1)** *(Participants are invited to light a candle here if they choose)*

Leader: The Lord has shown forth his glory;

People: Come let us adore him.

**Sunday’s collect** *(can be found here:* [*https://lectionarypage.net*](https://lectionarypage.net) *)*

**Hymn or Song of Praise:**

*Taize music and songs about light might be particularly appropriate. Worship music created by music directors from NH churches can be found by going to* [*https://www.nhepiscopal.org/worship-liturgy*](https://www.nhepiscopal.org/worship-liturgy) *or NH Episcopal YouTube Channel* [*https://www.youtube.com/c/NHEpiscopal*](https://www.youtube.com/c/NHEpiscopal)*, check back often as content is updated frequently.*

**The Word of the Lord**

(*from the lectionary for the day)*

**Scripture Readings** *(can be found here:* *https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/daily\_readings\_anytime.php)*

**Reflection:** *In the last week, what has been difficult and what are you called to mourn? What gift or grace have you known or received?*

**Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. AMEN.

**Prayers:**

Leader: We gather today, with a desire to know your Presence among us.

*People: Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead us.*

Leader: Surrounded by illness, we mourn our dead;

*People: Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead us.*

Leader: We know loneliness and discomfort;

*People: Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead us.*

Leader: We cannot see the way that lies ahead;

*People: Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead us.*

Leader: Yet, we know you make a way in the Wilderness;

*People: Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead us.*

Leader: Assure us that you are doing a new thing among us.

*People: Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead us.*

*(Perhaps the leader will offer a concluding prayer, including the opportunity to pray*

*for particular people and offer gratitude for blessings)*

**Agape Meal**

**Reading: Luke 22:14-20**
When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.” After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

*The Leader now offers the following prayers.*

**Prayer for Bread:**

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; you have fed us with the bread of life in the Body of your Son. Feed us now with your presence among us and your presence in your Word. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. **AMEN**.

**Prayer for Drink:**

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of Jesus Christ, crucified yet risen. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever. **AMEN**.

*If you are having a full meal following this service, you may bless the food with this prayer:*

**Prayer for other Foods:**

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

**Leader:** Jesus said, “When two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

*(Participants now eat their bread and drink their drink)*

**Hymn or Song of Praise:**

*Taize music and songs about light might be particularly appropriate. Worship music created by music directors from NH churches can be found by going to* [*https://www.nhepiscopal.org/worship-liturgy*](https://www.nhepiscopal.org/worship-liturgy) *or NH Episcopal YouTube Channel* [*https://www.youtube.com/c/NHEpiscopal*](https://www.youtube.com/c/NHEpiscopal)*, check back often as content is updated frequently.*

**Closing Prayer :**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one

accord to make our common supplication to you; and you

have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two

or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the

midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions

as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of

your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

**Blessing** *(all say together to bless each other)*

Lord bless us and keep us; Lord make your face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us; Lord lift up your countence upon us and give us your peace.

**Dismissal**

Leader: Go in peace, be the light of Christ

People: *Thanks be to God.*

1. BCP 81 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)