

### ***Prayer for a new earth***

God of all places and this place:  
You promised a new earth where the hungry will feast  
and the oppressed go free.

**Come Lord, build that place among us**

God of all times and this time:  
You promised a new day when the fearful will laugh  
and the sick find healing.

**Come Lord, speed that time among us.**

God of all people, our God:  
take what we have and what we hope for,  
to make this a world where all people find good news.  
**We come Lord, to share in the work of your Kingdom,  
until the new earth is created among us. Amen**

*Dessert is served*

**O God,  
preserve us in your keeping,  
that we may not faint and abandon your word.  
Let us enjoy the faithfulness which you have shown  
through your Son Jesus Christ.  
Kindle in us the fire of your divine love;  
lead us to practice love as your dear children.  
Let the light of your divine glory illuminate us,  
that we may walk in it.**

**O God,  
we ask you for one thing more;  
send us your Holy Spirit,  
endue us with power,  
renew our hearts,  
and make us strong in you  
that we may obey you  
and praise your name, Amen.**

*Early 16<sup>th</sup> Century prayer of Hans Langmantel, his manservant and maidservant*

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## **Gathering around the Table**

### **An Anabaptist Meal Liturgy**

#### ***The Welcome***

Jesus said, "Listen, I am standing at the door and knocking: if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me"

**We give thanks for this promise, for the company of each other and for God's presence with us.**

God invites us here and so we greet each other,

**(name) we welcome you to this table in the name of Christ**  
*Reply: Amen, it's good to be here.*

**We think about those who are not at this table today**

*We name people who we are particularly thinking about today*

**Whatever table they are at today, we pray that they will know the presence and blessing of God**

Jesus said "When you have supper, do not invite just your friends, or relatives, or those who are wealthy... but rather invite the poor and those on the margins"

We confess to God the ways in which we have not been inclusive and welcoming in this past week - Pause

For safe journeying with the familiar and rejecting God in the stranger,

**Lord, have mercy**

For colluding with conflict and neglecting the way of peace,

**Lord, have mercy**

For choosing to see the world, each other and ourselves with blinkered vision rather than the true sight of God,

**Lord, have mercy.**

### ***The promise of new beginnings***

The prophet Isaiah writes: "On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare for all peoples a feast of rich food, a banquet of well-aged wines – the best of meats and the finest of wines. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces, and he will take away the disgrace of his people from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. In that day they will say,

**This is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord for whom we waited, let us rejoice and be glad."**

*Bread is broken and wine is poured*

God, the source of everything we are and everything we have, we offer you this bread, product of many grains, kneaded together as the body of new life.

**We thank you, God, for everything good and whole in our lives.**

God, who walked the way of the cross, betrayed and bereft, we offer you this wine, product of many grapes, crushed and fermented as the blood of new life.

**We thank you, God, that when placed in your hands, all that is crushed in life holds the hope of healing and resurrection.**

*In the silence we think of things we would like to be changed in ourselves and in the world around us.*

As we share this bread and wine we tell again the story of a God who is at the centre of all the goodness and suffering in this world.

**We receive Christ who reveals the mystery and power of sacrificial love**

While they were at the table Jesus took a loaf of bread and after giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying "Take; this is my body". Then he took a cup of wine, and gave it to them. "This is my blood – which is poured out for many."

*Bread and wine are passed around.*

**Thank you God, for food and love**

*The first course is served*

**Thank you, Lord, for this meal  
but we cannot live by bread alone.  
We have shared it together  
because we need each other gathered round this table.  
We need (name)**

Reply: And I need you

**Lord God, as we bring our prayers  
We thank you that we can share in  
your Kingdom of justice and peace.  
We come in our poverty, not in our wealth  
in our blindness, not with great faith,  
in our weakness, not in our strength.  
You welcome all people  
So now we bring to you those  
from the wide and narrow streets of our world  
who need the love of the God to whom we pray.**

*Night lights may be lit as we name individuals or situations*