

## Virtual Worship

To assist you in this worship, you may wish to light a candle, and gather some symbols that might help you to worship, reflect and pray. As well as a green cloth for the current church season, you may wish to include something that inspires your imagination and fosters your faith: a cross, an image, or an icon.

*As this Sunday would normally be communion, you may wish to place before you an empty glass or wine glass and an empty plate on the cloth, for the liturgy of the empty plate and cup.*

### ***Liturgy of the empty cup and plate***

*This Sunday, as a church, we would have normally gathered to celebrate communion. At this time, we are unable to do that, so this liturgy has been written to help you reflect on communion and its place in your worshipping life.*

#### **Invitation**

This earth is not our earth.      This is God's earth.  
This time is not my time.        This is God's time.  
This table is not my table.      This is God's table.



God's earth, God's time, God's table...  
It is God who provides this place and this time.  
Provision is made for us all to be part of God's story.  
In this time, we rededicate ourselves and our surroundings  
for God's good purposes.

Though we/I cannot come to your table  
to receive the bread and wine,  
we/I know that you still meet us/me here;  
you embrace us in our brokenness,  
you pour out your love upon us/me,  
name us/me as your disciples, and claim us/me for an eternity.  
And we/I can still remember, as you commanded.

We/I lament that we/I will not share  
the bread and wine today.  
We/I lament that we/I cannot grasp  
a hand in fellowship today.  
We/I lament the suspending of this sacrament.  
We/I can remember that the Lord is with us/me.  
We/I can remember to lift up our/my hearts.  
We/I can remember to give thanks to the Lord our God.

Blessing and praise still belong to you,  
God of promise and of covenant.

Through your living Word you created all things,  
the majesty of the heavens and the glory of the earth.  
In your wisdom and goodness  
you have made all people in your image and likeness.

We/I remember the story that on the night of his betrayal  
your Son Jesus took the bread and took the wine,  
blessed them and shared them with his closest friends,  
saying: "Remember me."

Come now, Holy Spirit; bless us/me here today.  
Pour out the Holy Spirit  
on this empty plate and this empty cup,  
that they may be for us/me  
– even in their emptiness –  
the body and blood of Christ,  
so that we/I may take his life into our lives,  
and be taken ourselves to be blessed,  
broken and given for the world.



### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father 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.

### **Blessing**

Go now, in peace, with courage, with joy,  
to love and serve God  
as you love and serve others in this world;  
and God's blessing go with you,  
this day, and always. *Amen.*

*Liturgy of the empty cup and plate* written by the Rev. Elizabeth Raine,  
Minister of the Tuggeranong Uniting Church (Canberra Region Presbytery).

Opening prayer adapted from *A Liturgy of the Empty Hands* by the Rev. Dr Amelia Koh-Butler,  
at <https://ameliakoh-butler.blogspot.com/p/the-sacrament-of-empty-hands.html>