

*Behind the words the actions,  
behind the actions the mystery.*

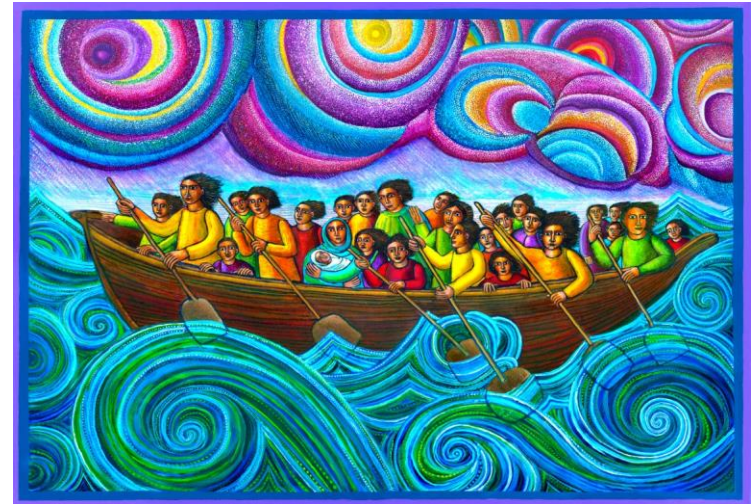
The Eucharist is a prism through which we can view the painful and joyful realities of life. It enables us to go beyond focusing on the historic events to evaluating all the events being enacted in our world and in our lives today.

The same symbols can empower us for liberation or legitimize our captivity, for liberation and captivity reside in the mind and not in the symbol.

Eucharist is a Way of looking at life in which we see  
all water as wine,  
all air as the breath of God,  
all sunlight as the fire of the Spirit,  
all earth as womb.  
It is a way of visioning beyond the realm of logic to the shadowy world of the mystery of the human mind where the play of symbols creates a world of vitality, humor, reverence and delight.

*Words by William Livingstone Wallace available for free use.*

Loving God, we share at this table by  
Your Grace and Mercy as we  
await Christ's coming.



The Sacrament of Christmas *By Howard Thurman*  
I make an act of faith toward all humankind,  
Where doubts would linger and suspicions brood.  
I make an act of joy toward all sad hearts,  
Where laughter pales and tears abound.  
I make an act of strength toward feeble things,  
Where life grows dim and death draws near.  
I make an act of trust toward all life,  
Where fears preside and distrusts keep watch.  
I make an act of love toward friend and foe,  
Where trust is weak and hate burns bright.  
I make a deed to God of all my days  
—And look out on life with quiet eyes.



## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

*An open invitation to communion is practiced within Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations.*

*We invite all visitors and friends who trust in Jesus Christ to join us today in being nourished at the Lord's Table.*

### INVITATION

May the God of all Creation be with you!

**May that God of Power and Blessing be with you, as well!**

We will join our hearts with all of God's people,  
offering them to the God who loves us.

**God fills our hearts, our lives, with overflowing grace.**

With voices in every tongue, of every faith,  
we will sing our praises to God.

**We offer glory and thanksgiving to our God.**

**THANKS & PRAISE** ...we lift our praises to you: *St. Anne Sanctus.*

### REMEMBERING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh.

**Christ is the Word that brought order to chaos,**  
bringing all things into being, breathing Spirit into dust.

**Christ is the Light that overcame the darkness,**  
shining from the dawn of creation to the daybreak of your eternal realm.

**Christ is the Water that quenches our thirst,**  
flowing from the hearts of believers and springing up into eternal life.

**Christ is the Bread that rises from the earth, feeding the poor and hungry, giving us wisdom and strength for each day.**

Christ is the Vine that connects all creation, binding us together in the unity of the Spirit, causing us to bear fruit for the world.

**Christ is the Life that death could not destroy, who gave his life in love for the world, who lives and reigns forever.**

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this cup and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy gift, dedicated to your service.

### CALLING UPON THE HOLY SPIRIT

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us—  
this bread, this cup, these people—  
Christ's body and blood, given in love for the world.  
Make us one in the Spirit, one in the church,  
and one with Christ our Savior.

Make us gentle, joyful, thankful people,  
serving our neighbors, worshiping you alone.  
Keep us in the peace of Christ  
until you gather us at your table in glory.

### THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT

#### SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

*We invite all to receive God's love for the world through communion or a blessing.*

*For those wishing to have an anointing for peace and for their journey of the week,  
Pastor Linda will be at the baptismal font.*

