L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada

**Invitation to the Table**

1. Brothers and sisters, the table that is set, is set for all;

around it there are no divisions.

As bread is not made from one grain, but from many,

and as wine is not made from one grape, but from grapes,

so too, though we are many, are made one in Christ.

This is a sacrament of unity; come all of you;

taste and see that the Lord is good.

1. We do this and we remember

that as we were welcomed at the table, we must make room for everyone.

We do this and we remember

that as we have been fed, we must ensure that others do not go hungry.

We do this and we remember

that as we have been served, we are called to serve others.

We do this and we remember

that as we have seen God’s goodness, we are sent into the world to show it.

1. This is the meal lovingly set.

This is where bread and wine

for bodily nourishment and spiritual hunger

are given and received.

This is food for

the sinner and the saint,

the rich and the poor,

the weak and the strong.

It is a blessing for

the proud and the humble,

the lost and the wise,

the bold and the meek.

This is the meal lovingly set and all are welcome.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord 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.

It is our greatest calling and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, creator and sustainer of heaven and earth.

You spoke, and at your word all things took shape and came into being: the sun and moon and stars, the sky and earth and waters, and all they contain. At your instruction, your Spirit swept over creation, bringing order out of chaos and life out of the formless void.

From the elements of the earth you created us as unique and distinct people but all in your holy image. You breathed life into us and called us to love and serve you and to live with you and one another in covenant and community.

But we turn away from you and we have tried to live apart from you and one another; but, you never turn from us. Through the prophets you call us back to you and to your ways. In the fullness of time, you sent your son, the Way, Truth, and Life, who was born of a mother’s flesh to reveal the full extent of your grace and love. Again and again you welcome us and receive us with the open and welcoming arms of a loving father.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with those from every time and place, to proclaim with them your glory, in the unending hymn:

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.

Holy is your son Jesus. Walking this earth, feeding the hungry, calling the lost, seeing the forgotten, touching those in need of healing, teaching those who sought out wisdom, and loving all, he showed your kingdom in your world. In breaking bread and sharing wine with your people here and in all places we recall the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon these offerings of bread and wine. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom where peace and justice are realized, so that with all your people we share the banquet you have promised and provided.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, creator and sustainer of all; glory to you forever and ever. And now we pray the family prayer which Jesus taught;

Our Father…

Prayer after Communion

Christ does not invite us only to sit at table with him.

Christ does not invite us only to eat and drink with him.

Christ does not invite us only to come to him.

Rather, Christ invites us to go out into the world

 to act with grace,

 to work for justice,

 to speak good news,

 and to love our sisters and brothers.

Christ, you have nourished us in this meal and fed our bodies and souls.

We have heard your love, send us out to speak it.

We have seen your love, send us out to show it.

We have been fed by your love; send us out to share it.

And let all things be done for your glory.