

## OLIVE OIL COMMUNION LITURGY

(Adapted from work by Rev Margaret McKechney)

(This liturgy is part of the *Growing Justice: Palestinian Olive Harvest* project, produced by Living Skies Regional Council of the United Church of Canada, and Mennonite Church SK. [Full information on the Growing Justice project is here](#), including a full list of liturgical, advocacy, and learning resources.)

### INVITATION

The grains of the Earth are as diverse as its landscapes.  
Hands of every colour, shaped and kneaded these grains to sustaining life giving bread.

The olive harvest is a powerful moment of *sumud* (steadfastness),  
in which Palestinian farmers and families tend their olive trees and  
work their land as they have for generations.

Olives have been the crop of sustenance and joy for thousands of years.  
When olive trees are demolished and destroyed,  
it is a heartbreaking loss.

Yet even in our lamenting, we must live in gratitude for what we have,  
and cherish what has been and what may be renewed.

Come taste and see the goodness of our God, the beauty of variety.  
The fruit and grains of the good Earth become symbols of the oneness of all Creation,  
and of a suffering and broken world;  
into which the love of God is poured out.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

In one great burst of energy, all creation was called into being.  
Gradually the beauty, and substance, of all that it is, emerged  
– accompanied by light, by love and the goodness intended for all.  
Into the midst of this, came the human race, alive to its beauty and wonder,  
and dependent on all other creatures for life in all its fullness.

**Yet we separated ourselves from the original blessing  
that was to accompany us wherever we chose to go,  
and found ourselves in wilderness places.**

**You would never abandon us, but called us back,  
through song and lament,  
voices attuned to justice, poet, artist and lovers of Earth.**

**There was no place that we could flee from your presence.**

We thank you that in the fullness of time, you came to us in Jesus, a child of the land,  
who loved the marginalized into wholeness and stood with integrity in the face of injustice.  
Jesus remained faithful to you even through brutal death on a cross.  
And yet, the grave could not hold the Christ revealed through Jesus.

**Christ lives among us still. Christ will come again.**

Jesus gave us these symbols of bread and wine to renew our faith.

And on the night before his death,

he took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, (*break bread*)

and gave it to his friends, and said,

**“Take, eat; remember me.”**

Then Jesus took the cup, and said, (*pour olive oil*)

**“Take, drink; remember.”**

As we share this sacred meal, we do remember.

We learn anew the meaning of being accompanied on life’s journey,  
praying that the Spirit will always go with us.

**We seek to take into ourselves afresh, the courage to seek justice,  
to break open barriers to full acceptance.**

**As we drink the cup, the love of God is poured out for us.**

**May we embrace a daring and tender love,**

**then pour it out abundantly into the world.**

#### PRAYER OF JESUS

#### THE DISTRIBUTION

The Bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
and because this is not our table but Christ’s table,  
all are welcome.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Bread of Life

The Cup of Blessing.

Come let us share in this holy meal.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Blessed Creator, for these gifts of the Earth  
that become sacred symbols of oneness and brokenness,  
life energies and love poured out,  
we give thanks.**

**May this ancient ritual awaken in us an awareness of an immeasurable love,  
that permeates every corner of the universe with light and energy,  
yet comes to us in this awesome mystery unfolding among us.**

**Strongly rooted and growing in the light of your love,**

**we resolve to seek justice even when it is costly,**

**to reverence the gifts of creation and to become an open community,**

**inviting all to the table who desire to live in God’s way. May all we seek be of goodness and  
compassion, multiplied by your love.**

**AMEN.**

