



## Centre Street Dinner Church

September 29, 2024

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### *Welcome and Candle Lighting*

*Laurel*

This candle reminds us that Christ, the Light of the World, is here with us this evening.

**Thanks be to God.**

### *“Like the Weeping Willow”*

Like the weeping willow swaying in the wind,  
I am part of creation and Jesus is my friend.  
Yes, Jesus is my friend. O Jesus is my friend.

Like the rolling river running to the sea,  
I am part of creation and God delights in me.  
Yes, God delights in me. O God delights in me.

Like the tiny sparrow or the gentle lamb,  
I am part of creation. God made me as I am.  
God made me as I am. God made me as I am.

### *Holy Communion*

We are gathered here to eat a sacred, shared meal, just as Jesus instructed his first followers to do. There is a place for everyone at this meal—everyone is invited, and everyone belongs.

**My brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to the table.**

When Jesus first ate with his friends, he told them to use simple food and drink, bread and wine, to make this meal special and to remember him. Jesus took some bread and said thank you to God. And he broke it saying, "My body will break like this bread." Tear off a piece of bread and eat it, remembering that Jesus loves you.

**Thank you, Jesus, for loving us so much.**

When Jesus ate with his friends, he also took a cup of wine. He said, "See this wine? It is to remind you of my blood which will pour out of my body when I die for the forgiveness of all creation."

**When we drink tonight, we will remember your love.**

May the food we are about to eat be a delight to our bodies and to our senses.

**God, be with us now as we eat, drink, and enjoy conversation.  
Amen.**

### ***"Peace Prayer: A Round"***

May we be bearers of peace in our hearts.

Peace, I welcome you into my soul. Peace, come into my soul.

Peace, oh peace, be mine all my days.

### ***Dinner Blessing***

***Christina***

God, bless the hands that prepared this meal.

May our time around the table be a gift.

May we be present to one another,

engaging all our senses as an act of thankful worship

for the nourishment that's before us with the people we love.

Or are trying to.

In our eating and cooking and gathering and sharing,

our jokes, talking with our mouths full, and elbows on the table,

may we taste and see the love that multiplies.

Amen.

### ***Blessings for the Lives We Actually Have***

***Cindy***

for our tired days ...

for when we need a little hope ...

for when we need permission to change ...

as we try to age gracefully ...

for our collective grief ...

for when we're afraid ...

for when loving our enemies seems impossible ...

for our beginnings and endings.

**God, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Spirit, have mercy.**

## **"Spirit, Open My Heart"**

*Chorus* Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love, may I love, in receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.

May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

## ***Benediction***

***Sarah***

This food and drink has fed our bodies, and our conversation has bound us together in friendship and love.

**Your Spirit, O God, has been with us and fed our souls.**

And now, as we blow out the candles and leave this place:

**May the Holy Spirit go with us wherever God sends us.**

**May she guide us through the wilderness,  
protect us through the storms.**

**May she bring us home rejoicing  
at the wonders she has shown us.**

**Amen.**