
This liturgy uses the simple song, *What we need is here* by Rev. Amy McCreath. Its five words are the closing sentence of a Wendell Berry poem, "The Wild Geese," which inspired Amy to write this tune.

Music and CCLI information for the musical response can be found here: https://www.uua.org/worship/words/music/what-we-need-here

In the liturgy to follow:

*Plain type denotes the leader’s words*

*Italic text is sung*

*Bold text is the congregational response (bold & italic is sung congregational response)*
April is national poetry month.

So, we’re going to begin our communion preparations this month with a poem.

The Wild Geese, by Wendell Berry

Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them to their way, clear
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye,
clear. What we need is here.

This will be our response throughout communion. We’ll sing it through twice each time.

It goes like this: *What we need is here. What we need is here.*

Let’s try it together:  
*What we need is here. What we need is here.*  (sing twice)

What do you need today? What do you desperately need?  (silence)

Hear the Good News:  *What we need is here. What we need is here.*

Before anything existed, God looked out into the darkness and saw the need for light.

God saw the void needed life and the vast waters covering the earth needed land.

The day needed the sun and the night the moon and stars.

The land needed creatures, the air needed birds, and the sea needed fish.

But even with all this, God needed us.
And so humanity was created as the crowning jewel of Creation and as we awoke to life God told us: **What we need is here. What we need is here.**

But as we grew God saw we needed guidance so They sent prophets to speak Their Truth.

But we couldn’t hear. We wouldn’t hear.

We kept turning away from God even though all along:

**What we need is here. What we need is here.**

And so, God saw clearly, there was a need for another way. A direct and simple way. Christ, God’s own self came to remind us, God is with us.

We are loved. Whatever we need, we can just simply ask of our good & loving God.

**What we need is here. What we need is here.**

And though we didn’t know we needed it, on his last night with us, Jesus said, here, take my body, you need it, broken for you.

And here, take my blood, you need it, poured out for you.

**What we need is here. What we need is here.**

Because this sacrament knits us together as one body in Christ, making us Christ’s community, you are invited to join hands or to place your hands on each other’s shoulders...

as we bodily ask God to make this meal be for us what we need.

Let us pray together:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and cup.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at your heavenly banquet.

Through Jesus the Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and for ever. Amen.

What we need is here. What we need is here.

Written by Rev. Corey Turnpenny 2019, Whitney Point NY
This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/ or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.