

**Spiritual Communion
4th Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020**

God of all wonder and love, you are ever-present with us and all Creation. Be with us as we worship this morning, and remind us of our union with you and with each other during this Advent season, even when we cannot see, or be physically present with those we care about deeply.

Give us strength and courage as we face the uncertainty of this time, just as Mary faced the birth of her child in an uncertain world. Bring us hope that in the Incarnation we can find the steadfastness of faith to meet the days ahead with a generous heart, and a compassion for all those who are vulnerable around us.

When we break bread, as Jesus broke and shared bread, we are committing ourselves to love generously. We pledge ourselves to be the "Body of Christ," the community of the faithful, loving God and neighbor with all our hearts, with all our minds, and in all our souls.

When we drink wine as Jesus shared wine with his friends, we are being mindful of our bonding with all that exists in Creation through God's Spirit creatively present with and within us.

We give you thanks for your son Jesus. Empower us to give generous expression to the love Jesus showed to all humanity, so that our love may overcome differences, our actions break down barriers, and our compassion includes those in generations to come.

O God of mercy, wake us to your grace that surrounds us, your love that undergirds us, your forgiveness that renews us, your everlasting arms that hold us close to you and each other. Help us become people who vulnerably share each other's joys and burdens, and listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of this world.

Knowing you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in Jesus' name.

Amen.