A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist for Pride Month

St. James' Episcopal Church
Skaneateles, New York

The Gathering & Call to Worship

A period of silence is kept. The Presider rings the bowl, and the People stand.

Presider Blessed be the One, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God forever and ever. Amen.**

Presider We come today representing all the majesty of creation.
People **Diverse and beautiful, blessed and beloved, all made in the image of the Creator of all things.**

Presider We come today, called to this time and this place by an infinite God;
People **Who hears our cries and responds with love and mercy.**

Presider We come today: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Nonbinary, Intersex, Queer, Ally;
People **Knowing that God will listen to the cries of our lips and our hearts;**

Presider We come today to deliver our joined prayers of hope;
People **Mourning still our losses, still recovering from the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic and the pandemic of institutionalized racism, misogyny, homophobia, and transphobia that have plagued our nation for far too long.**

Presider We come today knowing that God cares for us;
People **That even when others reject us, God's arms are open to our offer comfort.**

Presider Let us pray.
All **God of love and welcome: I welcome everything that comes to me, because I know all things work for healing. I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions. I let go of my desire for power and control. I let go of my desire for esteem and approval. I let go of my desire for security and possessions. I open myself to your love and presence in this space, in the person by my side, and in me; through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.**

-*The Welcoming Prayer* by Father Thomas Keating

All are seated.

First Reading *Galatians 3: 23-29*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore, the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand for the chant and remain standing for the proclamation of the Gospel.

Response Chant *Alleluia*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Give praise to God's Name!

The Gospel *Mark 9: 38-41*

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not one of us. Jesus said to him, "Don't you be hindering him; for no one who shall perform a miracle in my name will quickly be able to speak evil against me. For whoever is not against us is on our side. For whoever shall give you a cup of water to drink, in my name, because you are a follower of the Christ, I tell you truly: they shall not lose their reward."

-P.H. Epps translation

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

All are seated for a brief homily.

All stand.

The Affirmation & Prayers

Presider Let us together affirm our faith in our loving, liberating, and life-giving God:
All **We believe in God, who is love, and who has given the earth to all people.**
We believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, and to free us from all forms of oppression.
We believe in the Spirit of God, who works in and through all who turn towards the Truth.
We believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.
We believe in God's power to transform and transfigure, fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a new earth where justice and peace will flourish. Amen.

Deacon In peace and in faith, let us offer our prayers, saying, "Hear us, O Christ."

Deacon Guide and direct your holy Church known by many names in many lands; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.
People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Deacon Inspire with your Holy Spirit all those who stand for justice and peace, and especially this day all of our gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, non-binary, and queer siblings, both in your Church and in our communities. Through your Incarnation, by which you take on all of our human frailties, and your Resurrection, by which you have redeemed the whole human condition, may we know our own belovedness.
People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Deacon Give wisdom to all those in positions of public trust: to the President of the Unite States, the Congress, the Supreme Court, our Governor and state and local officials; that in all things they may do your will, promoting the common good of all your people.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Deacon Comfort and liberate the lonely and oppressed, particularly your beloved in lands where the simple act of loving who they love and being who they are may be punishable under law. Give them courage to face their trials and tribulations and hope to believe that it does get better and that love will win.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Deacon Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit, especially those with HIV/AIDS and those who care for them. Provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute, especially Queer youth who have been cast out by their families and live with the threat of violence against them, or who are contemplating suicide. Protect and guard them from every danger.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Deacon Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, as we have been forgiven. Turn their hearts to your grace and love, and help us always to meet hate with love.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Deacon Hear us as we remember those who have died and grant us with them a share in your eternal glory.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider Holy One, in your loving kindness you created and restored us when we were lost; hear our prayers and inspire us with your truth, that we may love you with our whole minds and run to you with open hearts, through Christ our Savior. **Amen**.

The Confession

Deacon Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

All **God, who made me in your image, teach me to love myself as you love me.**
God who made me in your image, allow me to show that image to the world.
God, who made me in your image, help me to conserve and protect all your creation.
God who made me in your image, bless, protect, and keep me, and all your children, safe.

Presider The One who breathed life into your lungs continues to be present with you. God, who has made you reflective of the Divine image, has forgiven you and made you new creations, that you may honor and uphold the dignity of all you meet, especially yourselves, and may see reflections of God's image all around you; in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Presider and People greet one another in the name of the Lord and are seated for instructions on Communion.

All stand.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider It is truly right to praise you, holy God, creator of heaven and earth, for you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Presider And so, with angels and archangels, and all the host of heaven, we glorify your Name as we say:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Presider Holy One, we gather this day as one people, members of the same body, grateful for your many gifts, and carrying the hope within us for a world filled with love. You first gave us this hope when you made the earth, and all that lives on it. You inspired prophets, widows and slaves, to seek liberation, so that we might be released to love fully. You became incarnate in Jesus Christ, so that through him we might experience the depths of your unquenchable love.

While Jesus ministered among us he stood up for women and children, touched those deemed untouchable, healed the sick, and welcomed those who had given up hope of being included. Through him we see a path not only to our own freedom, but to the liberation of the whole world.

He taught us that it will not be in the brutality of violence that our world will be saved. Rather, it will be in showing kindness to our neighbor, in standing up against injustice, and in the simple but holy task of sharing a meal together.

We know this because on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to his friends saying "Take, eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After dinner he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them and said: "Drink this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the Mystery of Faith:
All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Presider Send your Holy Spirit, we pray, into these gifts of bread and wine, and into us, that we may recognize each other as members of the same body, Christ's hands and feet and heart, sent for the healing of the world.

Unite us all to your Son, and bring us with Blessed Mary, the mother of God, blessed Marina the monk, blessed Joan of Arc, blessed John Henry Newman, blessed Pauli Murray, blessed Audre Lorde, blessed Harvey Milk, the blessed Martyrs of Pulse, and all your saints, into that place where there is no division or struggle, but light and life in the fullness of your presence.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ; by him and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever **AMEN.**

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say…
The Presider and People pray the Lord's Prayer.

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence follows.

The Presider invites the People to share in the Communion of our Lord. When all have received, the People stand for the final prayer.

Presider Let us pray.
People **God of abundance,**
you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation:
you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Presider gives the Blessing, and the People respond **"Amen."**

The Deacon gives the Dismissal, and the People respond, **"Thanks be to God!"**

Participants in the Liturgy

Presider & Preacher	The Rev. Joe T. Mitchell
Deacon	The Rev. Dr. Chuck Stewart
Lector & Eucharistic Minister	Mo Allyn

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