**Intercessions for Corpus Christi**

***May the grace of Christ our Saviour,***

***And the Father’s boundless love,***

***With the Holy Spirit’s favour,***

***Rest upon us from above.***

***Thus, may we abide in union***

***With each other and the Lord,***

***And possess in sweet communion,***

***Joys which earth cannot afford.***

***To the God whose wisdom made us,***

***To the Son who set us free,***

***To the sanctifying Spirit,***

***Glory, endless glory, be! Amen.***

John Newton 1725-1807

**Intercessions:**

*Lord,* *we encounter your love*

***In the breaking of bread***

***And the pouring of wine***

Sometimes, we are not certain why we come – habit , duty, the easiest option?

Sometimes the hymns are empty, the words are dull, and we don’t really concentrate.

Quite often the mind wanders off - to the Sunday papers, or what has to be done this afternoon.

Wouldn’t it be nice to be happy pagan?

But then, Lord

*we encounter your love*

***In the breaking of bread***

***And* the pouring of wine**

Around us is a world of extraordinary wonder and terror

People are discovering love and using it

Some are striding forward confidently and others are walking on broken glass

Some are full of hope, and some are crushed and exhausted

And always the burning, caressing beauty of God is coming to meet us

*we encounter your love*

***In the breaking of bread***

***And the pouring of wine***

Each of us brings our own special people to this service, carrying them in our hearts:

The child we despair of, and the child we long for;

The parent we love and sometimes resent, but who can no longer live alone

the friend whose cancer has wrecked her life.

We bring them with us, Lord, because

*we encounter your love*

***In the breaking of bread***

***And the pouring of wine***



In our deepest places there are hidden fears, and thoughts, we admit to no one.

All our vulnerability is exposed there; all the darkness which waits in our dreams

Perhaps we can begin to see that nothing is unknown to you, and that you look with mercy, not with blame

We come ourselves, Lord

*to encounter your love*

***In the breaking of bread***

***And the pouring of wine***

Gracious God, in this service we come to break bread for the city and pour wine for the world

We break bread for our sin and pour wine for our celebration

We break bread for each other and pour wine for for your Kingdom.

 Bless us and all those for whom we pray,

*that, we encounter your love*

***In the breaking of bread***

***And the pouring of wine***



***In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.***

***In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.***

***There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ***

***No guilt in life, no fear in death,
 This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand***
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*Stuart Townend*



***Lord, listen to the prayers of your people****,*

*gathered at your table.*

*In faith we pray:*

***we pray to you our God.***

*Here, where we celebrate how Christ gave us his body*

*to be our spiritual food,*

*listen as we pray for his body the Church,*

*spread throughout the world …*

*In faith we pray:*

***we pray to you our God.***

*Here, where we recognize the presence of Christ,*

*who takes away the sin of the world,*

*listen as we pray for that world*

*and for its peoples for whom his blood was shed …*

*In faith we pray:*

***we pray to you our God.***

*Here, where we come together as Christ gathered with his friends*

*to give us this meal of holy fellowship,*

*listen as we pray for all whom you have given us,*

*our friends and all whose lives are joined with ours …*

*In faith we pray:*

***we pray to you our God.***

*Lord, satisfy our hunger with the food that lasts,*

*the bread of God which comes down from heaven*

*and gives life to the world,*

*Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.*

***Amen.***

**(**The Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion (Corpus Christi).Corpus Christi is a festival that has been celebrated by many Christians, particularly the Catholic Church, in honor of the Eucharist since 1246. The name “Corpus Christi” is a Latin phrase that refers to the body of Christ. This event commemorates the Last Supper on the day before Jesus’ crucifixion, as described in the Bible.

According to some sources, Corpus Christi was celebrated in England from 1318 onwards. Special Corpus Christi plays and pageants were customary in England prior to 1547. Corpus Christi guilds often staged these events.)