

## Communion as Households of COBC

The global pandemic has caused us all to slow down and be physically separated, changing the forms and methods of our gatherings. Jesus tells us in John 16:32-33 “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.**” Thankfully in a season like this we exist in a time of virtual connection. Below are some of the thoughts that lead to the decision to partake in communion as an online community.

### What is communion:

**It is an opportunity to repent and reflect.** We look back to the redemptive plans and purposes of God which Jesus came and accomplished, we look around to what God is doing in and among us, and we look forward to the work of Christ that is yet to be done.

**Paul tells us that this is a deeply relational moment**, “Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.” (1 Cor. 10:17) It was a moment where churches met in homes, shared the bread and the cup after the meal and remembered the work of Jesus that centers, grounds, and guides our lives together. It may be some time until we gather corporately, and we expect that we will meet in homes before we meet in our building.

We are making the choice to continue to celebrate the Lord’s table together, officiated virtually. *It is not ideal, it is not the norm, and will not be forever.* For now, we will take the graces that God gives us, and be united through the bread and the cup as believers have been for 2,000 years.

### Preparation:

- **Proper Supplies-** Our desire is to honor the depth of the love and cost of Jesus’ sacrifice. Please make preparations to have bread and juice. If you do not have those and need someone to run to the store for you please reach out to your deacon or deaconess.
- **Prepare the Room-** turn off all devices (apart from what you’re watching the service on), maybe put the pets out, prepare your house by talking over what is going to happen and what communion symbolizes.
- **Order of Service-** We will be officiating live on Tuesday night as we do every year for Maundy Thursday. We hope you will join us, but if your power is out, your facebook crashes, you don’t have internet stop as a household at 6:30 and follow the order of service below.

### A Holy Moment for Our Households:

So many of us compartmentalize life. It is part of our culture, we are one person at church, in work, in the home. God is inviting us to remember that where ever we are, the Spirit of God is. Let that sink in.

God is inviting us to remember that our homes are places of prayer, worship, and holiness. Maybe this will be the first time you practice confessing sins together, focusing on the cross together, stopping all the devices and busyness and breathing an atmosphere of grace in your home. Perhaps this is where revival starts, let’s run to Him in prayer and worship together.

Liturgy from 1 Corinthians 11.

**Confession and Repentance:**

We are told in 1 Cor. 11 that “<sup>27</sup>Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup>Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup>For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.”

Take a moment now and allow the Spirit to convict us, shining the light of the gospel in to the corners of our souls.

Lead your family in a prayer of repentance like this one:

*Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.*

Scripture leaves us with great assurance about those who humbly trust in Jesus and confess sin. Read this passage aloud from 1 John 1:7-2:3

<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.<sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. <sup>3</sup> And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments

**The Bread:** For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for<sup>[f]</sup> you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Pass the bread, pray thanking Jesus for offering His body in our place, then partake of the bread.

**The Cup:** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Pass the cup prayerfully thanking God for the price of our salvation and the eternal promises of God’s grace that are ours through Jesus’ blood, then partake of the cup.

**Looking Forward to His Return:** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

With those gathered say together: Christ died, Christ has risen, Christ will return.

**Have a prayer thanking God for His body, blood, and resurrection.**

Maybe this one from the book of Ephesians 3:

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family<sup>[a]</sup> in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**Take a moment ask each other how Jesus might be asking you to live the love of this gospel in the world together this week.**