

Communion - 2nd August 2020

August 2, 2020

Gathering

At the table, on the sofa, in the garden, Jesus invites us to his feast.

It is Christ we are remembering, and it is Christ who bids us come.

We share in this meal, as others around the world will share together.

Apart, yet united, we eat and drink in remembrance of the one who brings us together in one family.

As the body of Christ, we are many parts; together we are one made whole by the Holy Spirit.

As individual parts, we have our frailties, our weaknesses, and our faults.

- We confess before God our sin, the action and inaction that brings us shame.
- We confess before God our failure to love enough and in the right way.
- We confess before God that without him we cannot save ourselves, let alone others.

PAUSE

- We receive from God his grace, the gift that brings hope.
- We receive from God his love that casts out fear and draws us to others.
- We receive from God his salvation to share with others who he brings our way.

Sharing

And now we remember the night of Christ's betrayal, that dark time when the world wept.

We remember Christ at the table, reclining with his friends, troubled by the events to come, pausing before the storm broke to break bread. A meal commemorating historical rescue becomes the foretaste of eternal rescue.

We remember Christ taking the bread, giving thanks and breaking it, giving it to each and every one of his companions on the Way with the words, "Take, eat; this is my body broken for you." Puzzled by these words, unable to understand their meaning, the disciples ate.

We remember Christ taking up the cup, setting the seal on God's new covenant as he handed it round the table with the words, "Do this as often as you drink it." Each one drinks, though equally confused, before heading off to the garden and the most significant few hours in history.

We pray:

Gracious God,

We give you thanks for Jesus's life, ministry and death. We thank you for the light that you sent into the world that death could not extinguish, but instead shines across eternity. As we eat and drink, we remember that we are part of your story of humanity. And so, we receive your grace in bread and wine.

Amen.

And so, we eat.

And so, we drink.

Sending

We pray:

Father of life,

We thank you for the gift of life, that even death is not the final end. We thank you for the power of your love, your grace and your mercy, that sustains us in this life and will be fulfilled in the life yet to come. May we live out your hope for your world as we live day by day. May we know that when life gets tough and the world around us seems so dark, that your light has never gone out. Lead us to your light, we pray, as you guide others to your family.

Amen.