

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

AKA: Communion/ Joyful Feast/ Heavenly Banquet

“People will come from north and south, east and west,
and will eat in the kingdom of God.” (Luke 13:29)

Why Bread and Juice (Wine)?

During Jesus' earthly ministry, he shared countless meals with his followers as a sign of community and acceptance and as an occasion for his own ministry. Always present at these gatherings was good food, gracious hospitality, gathered company, a special occasion, storytelling, laughter, tears, thanksgiving, and guests.

What does the Lord's Supper symbolize?

The Lord's Supper (Communion) is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord.

The Lord's Supper evokes the sense of *koinonia* (community fellowship) enjoyed by the people of God with one another as they gather at the table.

The Lord's Supper, as a means of grace, invites experiential encounter with the living God, but it also provides that God with a storied identity as creator, liberator, self-giving servant, and host of the banquet. (book, bath, table, and time)

Four gestures: taking, blessing, breaking, sharing.

At the Table...

At the Table, we bless God for all that God has done through creation, redemption, and sanctification; give thanks that God is working in the world and in the Church despite human sin; gratefully anticipate the fulfillment of the Kingdom Christ proclaimed, and offers itself in obedient service to God's reign.

At the Table, the Church is renewed and empowered by the memory of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and promise to return; sustained by Christ's pledge of undying love and continuing presence with God's people; sealed in God's covenant of grace through partaking of Christ's self-offering.

At the Table, God's people are in communion with Christ and with all who belong to Christ. All those who trust and believe in Christ are invited and welcome at the table.

Each time we gather at the table, we are united with the Church in every place, and the whole Church is present; join with all the faithful in heaven and on earth in offering thanksgiving to the triune God; commit afresh to love and serve God, one another, and their neighbors in the world.

Sharing the Lord's Supper @ FPCLY

At FPCLY, we gather together as a community to celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of every month during worship and during several liturgical seasons representing Christ Sundays (Christmas Eve, Transfiguration, Easter, Christ the King). For it to be a feast, a community presence is required.

Invitation to the Table (All those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ are welcome to participate)

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Inviting the Holy Spirit to be present in the bread and cup and with us in community)

Words of Institution (Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup... Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me.")

Communion of the People (Sharing the "Bread of Life" and "Cup of Salvation")

- A. Pew – Participants are invited to remain in their seat. After the breaking of the bread and pouring of the cup, servers will bring a tray of bread to each pew to be passed from person to person. After everyone has been served the bread, servers will bring a tray of miniature cups of juice to each pew to be passed from person to person. After everyone has been served the cup, the servers will all return to the table to be served by the worship leaders. While waiting for the elements, all are invited to pray quietly or reflect on the music being played.

This style has become known as a more traditional form of serving. It emphasizes Christ's gifts for you and invites you to share them with your neighbor.

- B. Intinction- All participants are invited to come forward to receive the elements together. After the breaking of the bread and pouring of the cup, participants are asked to come forward by rows beginning in the front of the sanctuary and moving toward the back. Each participant is asked to take a wafer, dip it into the cup, and then partake of the elements together. All participants are then asked to return to their seats by the side aisle. If you are unable to come forward, you are invited to remain in your seat and a server will come to you.

This style is the earliest Reformed method, as people approached the Lord's Table to receive the bread and cup. It calls us to respond to God's gifts for us by coming forward to receive them.

*Note: We do not serve wine in the celebration of the Lord's Supper in courtesy of those individuals and families with addictions.

Prayer after Communion