

AT-HOME COMMUNION



Reading of Scripture

This bread is broken in community, although we are apart, because this bread is about the common-life of living through the Spirit: a community given over to love.

We don't know where it will take us, though more often than not the church has tried to control that journey, prescribing what happens at Christ's table, holding the Spirit back, containing the surprise of finding heaven in a crumb of bread and all of grace in a splash of wine, in prescribed word and deed.

Ephesians 4:25–5:2

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

But this act of communion is unknown we remember, for this story is still unfolding in the world. Still the Saviour offers himself to the world in love, still the Saviour moves to the very edge of reason, still the Saviour betrays the comfort of the religious authorities by unbarring God, and showing us the distance God will go for us in love.

Today in this simple communion we untangle God from liturgy and tradition, and explore this bread's calling and conspire with this wine's taste by following the Spirit beyond what is expected and live in the surprising grace that God longs for us to savour.

Prayer Write down on a piece of paper:

What you are thankful for.

What has surprised you or discovered about yourself...

Who do we bring to this table? Write down:
peoples names...

situations...

hopes...

Our prayers are met in the community of this table, the radical relationship this table fashions. It is a prayer because we bring those peoples, situation and hopes into the company of God.

Communion

Breaks the bread

Bread broken for wholeness and holiness

Lift cup

Wine shared to lift our spirit with grace

Share the meal.

Words of Scripture

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn positive behaviour from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with God and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. Christ's love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

Blessing

May the sky stretch above you;
may your day be as deep as it is long;
may each breath you take expand with grace;
and tonight may God write your name
in the sunset.

Amen.