

Trinity Baptist Church
Communion 10/01/21

So, we come to communion. We come to remember the grace of God supremely shown to us in the death and resurrection of Jesus' Christ. And as we do so, we look to God to strengthen our unity in the Spirit as we join together in our homes in this simple act of remembrance.

Invitation:

Gather us in,
The lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking,
The tired and the aching
Who long for the nourishment found at your feast.

Gather us in,
The done and the doubting, the wishing and wondering,
The puzzled and pondering
Who long for the company found at your feast.

Gather us in,
The proud and pretentious, the sure and superior,
The never inferior
Who long for the levelling found at your feast

Gather us in,
The bright and the bustling, the stirrers, the shakers,
The kind laughter makers
Who long for the deeper joys found at your feast

Gather us in,
From corner or limelight, from mansion or campsite,
From fears and obsession, from tears and depression,
From untold excesses, from treasured successes,
To meet, to eat, be given a seat,
Be joined to the Vine, be offered new wine,
Become like the least, be found at the feast.

Gather us in!

Confession:

Let's take time now in silence to confess any unconfessed sins to God, and particularly any situations in which we have allowed a legalistic attitude to get in the way of displaying God's grace; where we have tried to impose our man-made rules on others; or where we have failed to do the good to others that was within our gift to do. And if God brings to mind ways in which you have hurt others, can I encourage you to contact them and apologise, if that is possible, after this service.

[Pause]

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,

through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Absolution:

The prophecy of the New Covenant in Christ given in Jeremiah that I quoted earlier, ends with God's promise: "I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." Let's take those words again for ourselves as we take the bread and wine together.

Bread and Wine:

Paul describes the institution of this act of remembrance:

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Let's eat together, remembering Jesus' broken body and the value he placed on your life.

[take and eat bread]

Now, let's drink together, one cup, one people, one Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

[drink from cup]

Your death, O lord, we commemorate.

Your resurrection we confess.

Your final coming we await.

Glory be to you, O Christ.