

A word from Pastor David Daniel

Isn't it amazing, that the 'one' loaf of bread which has been broken into many pieces and which represents Christ's Crucified body, also speaks dynamically to the church about the churches very nature. We who are many, yet so different, yet so unique, emanate from the same spiritual source the 'one' Holy Spirit of God.



We can never diminish the spiritual significance of the emblems, but at the same time we are invited to recognise the value of our brothers and sisters in Christ as we share this holy meal together. The function of our differences is necessary to enable us to fulfil the 'bodies' (churches) mission.

So let us respect and encourage each other, considering each brother and sister in Christ, from the perspective of the Father. Always bearing in mind the true implications of 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 & Romans 12:4-5.

Fathers blessing on you all

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The People's Christian Fellowship

WHAT IS...



1 Corinthians 11:26

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



What is Holy Communion?

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) during the Passover the night before His death. The Passover was kept to commemorate the salvation of the Israelites when the last plague in Egypt was issued and all the firstborn children died. The Israelites were spared because the blood of a spotless lamb was smeared on their doorposts. After this they roasted and ate the lamb with unleavened bread. This became a yearly celebration for the Israelites known as 'Passover' because death had passed over them. (Exodus 12)

Jesus is the spotless 'Lamb that takes away the sins of the world' and as we know the wages of sin is death but because the Lamb of God shed His blood for us, death can now pass over us too through the sacrifice of Christ.

During the last meal with His disciples, Jesus "took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. **(Luke 22:19-21)**

The broken bread, represented Christ's broken body **(Isaiah 53:4-5)**

The wine represented Christ's blood **(Romans 3:25)**

*"Jesus said to them, 'Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.' **(John 6:53-54)***

Jesus told His disciples to "do this in remembrance of Me." signifying the importance of remembering the sacrifice that Christ has made for us. With every bite of the bread and sip of the wine we are to remember the gruesome beatings, piercings, and scourging Christ faced, not for anything He had done wrong but because of OUR SIN! We are to remember what this means for us - Forgiveness of sins, freedom from guilt, access to the Father, and the PROMISE of eternal life.

The Lord's Supper/Holy Communion is a remembrance of what Christ did for us and a celebration of what we receive as a result of His sacrifice and that which is to come. Christ Jesus is our Passover! **1 Corinthians 5:7**

DEFINITION

Gk. κοινωνία - koinōnia = Fellowship, Participation, Sharing, Community

Next Steps...

What do I do now?

If you believe you are ready and would like to be baptised please speak to your pastor. You do not need to wait until you hear that a baptism is scheduled but as soon as you decide that you are ready, let your pastor know the wonderful news, so they can rejoice with you and pray for you as you begin your new journey. They will let you know an approximate date for your baptism, confirming the details nearer the time.

If you would like to talk to someone about baptism, please let your pastor know who will be happy to answer your questions or refer you to someone you can talk to in more detail. You will also receive some literature to read through.

You will be asked to attend a meeting approximately one week before the date of your baptism so that those responsible for baptising you can explain the process to you in more detail.

Prior to your baptism you will be asked about your repentance and faith in Christ to ensure that you are sincere and confident about the step you are taking. On the day of your baptism you will be asked to give a public testimony of your faith. If you have any concerns about this please speak to a church leader.



Should I partake in Communion?

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ?

It is of course paramount that you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ - not just in His existence, but in what He has done for you and every believer. You must believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross, shedding His blood as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world, that includes the forgiveness of your sins. You must believe that He bore the consequences for sin (death) that you deserved and that He offers you a promise of eternal life, if you believe. Your belief in Christ and acceptance of His work on the cross also means making a commitment to walk with the Lord in obedience to His Word (The Holy Scriptures), making Him LORD (master) of your life.

As well as this you must know that in believing and accepting the work of Christ Jesus on the cross by FAITH, that you become a part of the family of God and as such must love your brothers and sisters in the Lord, knowing that each of you make up the 'body of the Lord Jesus Christ' (**1 Corinthians 12:27**) and as such you commit to continue in sincere fellowship with them.

Have you repented of your sins?

To repent means to 'change your mind' or turn away. It involves recognising that you are a sinner, according to God's holy standard and that the consequence for sin is death. Christ has died so that you may be forgiven for ALL your sins and so your act of repentance is to accept Christ's forgiveness and make a firm choice to turn away from your former lifestyle and sin no more.

Have you discerned the body of the Lord?

It is important that you understand what it means to eat the bread and drink the wine before doing so. Please read the sections - '**Why is communion important**' & "**FAQ**" for further info. To discern the Lord's body is to recognise Christ's physical body, in its brokenness and death and to recognise His spiritual body - His church, in redemption and life. **Both are to be treated reverently - as HOLY.** The bread and wine are emblems of Christ physical body and we must not treat them with any flippancy, or be found guilty of mistreating Christ's body, that He gave for us. (1 Corinthians 11:27) but likewise we must remember that we, the church, represent Christ's spiritual body, and any mistreatment of it or division in it, is a sacrilege to Christ Himself.

Why is communion important?

Why did Jesus institute the Lord's Supper?

Jesus Christ is our sacrificial Lamb

- The Lord's Supper was initiated as a memorial of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus instituted it on the eve of His death - the night of His betrayal. He made it clear that the bread and wine were to be eaten and drunk **in remembrance** of Him. Not only in remembrance of His physical death but in remembrance of what that death would mean to every believer. The Lord's Supper is the antitype to the Old Testament Passover, celebrating a time of salvation, when a lamb without blemish was slaughtered and its blood smeared on the doorposts of every Israelite home. This was done so that when God sent His final plague upon Egypt to kill every firstborn child, death would pass over every door that had the lambs blood applied to it. In this manner the Israelites were saved from God's judgment upon Egypt. Jesus Christ is our sacrificial Lamb who was led to the slaughter (**Isaiah 53:7**), His blood was shed (**Romans 3:25; 1 Peter 1:19**) and that blood is symbolically applied to every believer (**Hebrews 10:22; 1 Peter 1:2**) so that death (the consequence for sin) passes over every believer in Christ (**Hebrews 9:14**). Instead of death the believer is promised forgiveness of sins (**Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7**) and eternal life (**John 6:54**).

This is not something you want to forget!



Eat Flesh & Drink Blood, Really?

Do we believe in Transubstantiation?

What is transubstantiation?

- Transubstantiation as defined by the Catechism of the Catholic Church is the belief that the bread and wine used for the Eucharist (Communion) miraculously changes into the actual body and blood of Jesus Christ and is not merely symbolic but a physical reality.

Do we PCF agree with transubstantiation?

- The simple answer is **NO!** We hold that the bread and wine are **symbolic** and that Jesus made it very clear that what we were eating and drinking was most definitely bread & wine. (1 Corinthians 11:26 & Matthew 26:29) When Jesus instituted the last supper He had not yet been crucified and so what He shared could not possibly have been His actual body or blood. We are told to eat bread and drink wine in **remembrance** of the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for us, whilst looking forward to his coming. **1 Corinthians 11:26 & Matthew 26:29**

So what does the bread & wine symbolise?

Bread symbolises Christ's Body = LIFE

- The Bread analogically represents the physical body of Christ. Christ has long been referenced with the analogy of bread. *"Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'" - John 6:35* *"I am the living bread that came down from heaven, Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."* - **John 6:51**. The bread was broken even as Christ's body was broken, demonstrating the LIFE He gave! It is Christ's body that was given for the 'life of the world' - His death means life for you!

Wine symbolises Christ's Blood = NEW COVENANT

- The Wine analogically represents the blood of Christ poured out for our sins. *"Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.'" Luke 22:20*. Jesus entered into a covenant with the Father post-dating the Abrahamic covenant, by being the very lamb that was slaughtered (Genesis 12) and Christ did so for the remission of our sins. **Matthew 26:28**

Frequently Asked Questions...

When should I NOT take Holy Communion?

- If you do not believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, died for our sins, that He rose from the dead on the 3rd day, witnessed by men, that He ascended into Heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father until He comes again to judge the living and the dead and that He will reign over all the earth until the last enemy death is defeated and rescue His people from the earth. (**Romans 15**)
- If you have not personally accepted Jesus Christ as Lord, recognising that He is your saviour, by repenting of your sins and surrendering obediently to the Lord, you should not partake of this Holy Sacrament.
- If you do not recognise that in accepting the above you are now a part of the 'body of Christ' and family of God, and if you do not have regard for your fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord, recognising that they are also a part of His body, then you should not take Holy Communion. There must be no conscious hatred, animosity or division on your part among the brethren but you must both love and respect all the saints of God and live at peace with them where possible as much as depends on you.
- If you are persistently living in sin and you are unrepentant, having not turned away from your sin, you should not take communion.
- * **Please note:** We recognise that all believers struggle with their faith from time to time and the war against sin is not an easy one. We understand that most will be battling against sin in its various forms but your desire to be free from it and your constant action to avoid or rid yourself of it is NOT a reason to abstain from Holy Communion. Only those who remain in sin with no effort to change or repent are asked not to take communion.

If you are struggling with sin or uncertain as to whether you should partake in communion, please speak to a church leader for support or guidance.

What does it mean to eat in an unworthy manner?

- To partake of communion flippantly with no regard to the suffering our Lord endured, is to partake unworthily, to partake of one without the other, is to partake in an unworthy manner, to partake with animosity, contention or division in ones heart against your fellow brethren, is to partake in an unworthy manner. To discern Christ body both physical & spiritual is to treat it as HOLY!