



Specific Guidelines for Practice of Holy Communion for Online Communities

Our Bishop of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Sharma Lewis, has issued special guidelines for the partaking of Holy Communion for Online Communities. This is an allowance for these special times (pandemic) and is not a settled practice.

The Guidelines are as follows:

- 1) Explanation – Pastor Clark Cundiff, as the presiding clergy, will explain that those participating in the practice of online communion is an extraordinary means for observing the sacrament and that it is only permitted for the present crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2) Service of Word and Table – The Communion liturgy found on page 12-15 of the United Methodist Hymnal – *A Service of Word and Table II* – will be used with the words provided to the Online Community (see Appendix). The bread and cup will be consecrated by Pastor Clark Cundiff for both the Online and In-person community simultaneously.
- 3) Elements – The preferred elements to be used are bread / crackers and grape juice. Before the service starts on Sunday, take the bread out of the container, place on the plate and cover it with a napkin. Second, pour the grape juice into your cup. Cover the juice with a napkin. The elements should have a sacred feel.
 - *How do we administer and receive the elements?* Once an ordained elder, has led you through the liturgy, prayed the prayer of consecration saying, “Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood,” you will be invited to share the elements with your family.
 - *What do we say as we share the elements?* Break the bread into pieces and say to one another, “The body of Christ, given for you.” Once everyone in your family has a piece of bread, you can then share the cup and say to one another, “The blood of Christ, given for you.” Each member of your family

should take turns dipping the bread into the cup, and then everyone can receive the elements together.

- *What do we do with leftovers?* Please remember that these are consecrated elements. Dispose of them in a sacred fashion. Since the elements came from the ground (wheat, grapes, etc.) they should go back into the ground. Thus, break the bread into small pieces and scatter them outside and pour the juice onto the ground.
- 4) Keep in mind that Holy Communion is a sacred moment and God has invited you and your family to the Table, and it might be less important whether the Table of the Lord is in the church building or in your own home. If you'd like to read further about our United Methodist understanding on Holy Communion, visit www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-do-i-need-to-knowabout-holy-communion-in-the-united-methodist-church

Appendix: *A Service of Word and Table II*

This text is used by the pastor while the congregation uses A Service of Word and Table II (UMH 12–15)

INVITATION: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON: **Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

All Pray in Silence

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sine and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.

Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen**

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.