



UNITED PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL:

Light of Christ  
St. John's Windish  
St. Peter's

May 18, 2020

Re: Remote Holy Communion

Greetings and peace to you all!

Recently the leadership of our community of faith has decided that we will be offering Holy Communion remotely using our "Live Stream worship."

While this decision has taken some time to develop and appropriately share, the decision was reached after a tremendous amount of prayer, study, discernment, and input from the authoritative sources available. *(If you would like the complete packet of our rationale (10-page document) please contact the church office and we will mail to you.)*

Some of us may be "overjoyed" with this development while others among may have concerns about this development. As your pastors we urge you to follow your own conscience about whether you will receive the sacrament of Holy Communion when it is being offered. We respect and honor each of you and the decisions that you will make regarding this topic.

For those who desire to share in Holy Communion remotely we offer the following suggestions to enhance your participation in this Holy Meal.

#### **Prior to participating in worship via technology**

1. Prepare the elements that you will use for Holy Communion.
  - a. Wine, grape juice, even water is acceptable.
  - b. Bread, gluten free bread products are acceptable.
2. Place the wine or grape juice in a "special" cup. One that you find value in that appropriately houses the presence of Christ (a beer mug, or coffee mug are probably NOT appropriate.)
3. Place the bread or other bread product on a special plate. One that you find value in that appropriately would hold the presence of Christ.
4. Place these worldly elements on a surface near where you will be participating in the worship.
5. Consider lighting candles on the surface used to hold the elements.
6. Consider placing a cross on the table used to hold the elements.
7. Consider placing a "veil" over the elements in order that you can "unveil" the elements with the pastor. Any linen cloth that seems appropriate to veil the elements could be utilized.
8. Just as when you are participating in worship at the sanctuary, we ask that you silence or turn off your cell phones or other things that might distract you during our worship.

#### **While participating in worship**

1. Fully participate in the worship, just as you would in the sanctuary.
  - a. Sing as though you were among your sisters and brothers in Christ.
  - b. Prayer as you would normally pray and invoking the presence of the Spirit

2. At the time of the brief order of confession
  - a. Utilize the time of silence to share with our Lord any offenses that you are truly sorry for and desire to repent from.
  - b. Allow yourself to feel and experience the sincerity of our public confession.
  - c. Hear the words of absolution spoken by our Pastors to be the Word of forgiveness spoken by our God using the pastor as an instrument.
3. Following our offering
  - a. Unveil the elements that have been prepared prior to our worship as the pastors unveil the elements on the altar
  - b. As the pastor elevates each element (the bread first, the wine second) elevate the element that you have prepared.
  - c. After the elements have been “consecrated (made holy)” the pastor will declare; “The Body of Christ given for you.” Repeat these words and ingest Christ. The pastor will then declare “The Blood of Christ, shed for you.” Repeat these words and ingest Christ.
  - d. Following the reception of the meal, veil the vessels utilized for Holy Communion as the pastor veil the vessels in worship.
  - e. Attentively pray with the pastor who will share the post communion prayer.

For those who will deny themselves the Sacrament in this way. The prayer of “Spiritual communion” which will be printed in bulletins should be recited during this portion of our worship.

Stay attentive to the worship till its natural conclusion.

#### **After the worship**

1. Carefully clean and sanitize any of the worldly objects that were used to help celebrate the Sacrament.
2. Any “left over” elements should be consumed by the believer. If this creates a problem, you may share the elements with other parts of creation (i.e. they may be placed outside to be consumed by the birds of the air or other animals of God’s creation.)
3. Unveiled sacrament elements should NOT be “held over” to be re-used at our next worship with Holy Communion.

May God’s peace richly dwell with you!

Pastor Suzanne Trump

Pastor Jerry Kulp