

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Ask Yourself. What do we renew in Communion? What does God renew? How or why are you participating or not?

Celebrate! If you trust Christ, take part in His feast with joy.

Pray for Our FCCW Family. Ask God to give us wisdom to know these biblical sacraments and power to live in their reality.

Special Sermon Series on the Sacraments

Sacrament— A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers. The sacraments of the New Testament are, baptism, and the Lord's Supper. (*Westminster Shorter Catechism* # 92-3)

Baptism— Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our in-grafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's. (WSC # 94)

Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized. (WSC # 95)

Communion— The Lord's Supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace. (WSC # 96)

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
September 1st, 2019

Morning Service:

1 Corinthians 11: 17 – 34

Communion – Sacrament of Renewal

1. **At the Royal Feast We Are Doing These Three Things.**
 - A. We Are Loving Our King.
 - B. We Are Honoring Our Fellow Princes and Princesses of Christ's Kingdom.
 - C. We Are Proclaiming the King's Love to the World.
2. **At the Royal Feast God Is Doing These Three Things.**
 - A. He Is Loving Us Tangibly Through Feeding Us.
 - B. He Is Honoring Us as His Beloved Royal Heirs.
 - C. He Is Proclaiming His Love for Us as His Bride.
3. **When Christ Returns for Us, We Will Feast Together.**
 - A. Communion Is a Taste of Heaven and His Certain Return.
 - B. How Do We Live Out Love, Honor, and Proclamation Now?
 - C. He Gives Us Faith and Repentance Together in Community.

Whereas Baptism is a *once for all* sign and seal of the covenant promise we have in Christ, Communion is a *frequent feast* to be enjoyed together with God's people as a *renewal* of this promise. In this community meal we feast with God Himself and His people gathered together to worship Him. It is a foretaste of heaven and a means through which God feeds us and strengthens us as we await Christ's return for us.

Evening Service:

Caleb Rayapati
Acts 16: 1 – 15

How the West Was Won!

Marks of a Minister and his Ministry

Notes:

Taking Gathered Worship Home

God feeds us. He takes care of us. His sacrament of Holy Communion demonstrates this tenderly and powerfully. Dwell on that this week.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Exodus 12:1-13:16; John 6:26-35** (below). DISCUSS, in what ways did Passover mark the Israelites as God's People? How does communion communicate more of the gospel? PRAY thanking God for this visible sign of His covenant promise.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Revelation 19:7-9**. DISCUSS, What is the event at the fulfillment of all time? Why? ASK Christ to give us unceasing joy at the prospect of being united to Him forever.

Monday

READ **First Corinthians 11:23-25**. DISCUSS, How do we demonstrate our love for God in communion? How does He demonstrate His love for us? PRAY for FCCW to grow in our love for Christ and one another.

Tuesday

READ **First Corinthians 11:17-22; 29-33**. DISCUSS, How do we honor one another in communion? How does God honor us? BEFRIEND someone today in the freedom we have in Christ. PRAY and ask the Lord to help us love one another.

Wednesday

READ **First Corinthians 11:17-22**. DISCUSS, How do we proclaim our King's love in communion? How does God proclaim His love for us? On what basis is Jesus leading the Passover with His disciples? How does Communion fulfill Passover? Why? PRAY, Ask God to help us understand His welcome to His table.

Thursday

READ **Matthew 26:26-35**. DISCUSS, What is the importance of communion? Who participates in the first communion? Why is betrayal such key part of communion's institution? PRAY, "Jesus, enable us to faithfully love you and your people."

Friday

READ **First Corinthians 11:17-34; Revelation 19:7-9**. DISCUSS, What have you been learning about communion this week? How will you participate in it differently? PRAY asking Christ to strengthen and deepen our affection for Him.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ **Genesis 34:1-31** in preparation for our return to Genesis. Come to worship tomorrow *asking the Holy Spirit to guide us together as a congregation*. Pray for our neighbors to know this joy.

John 6: 26 – 35

Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.'" Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread."

Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life**; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.