

The Fellowship of His Sufferings

What does the communion service mean to you? Is it more than a routine service of the church? Do you know the distinctive blessings of this service in particular? Or, are you somewhat indifferent in your attitude toward the Lord's Supper? Perhaps you have often felt, "I cannot get to communion service this time, but it doesn't matter too much. I'll be in church next week and receive the same blessing."

If that is the case, it may be appropriate to remember John Calvin in his zeal and love for this ordinance. Calvin lay on his death bed in Geneva as Easter Sunday dawned in the year 1564. But so overwhelming was his longing to celebrate the Holy Communion with his congregation that he insisted on being carried into the church.

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper ought to be precious to us because it stands for something precious. It holds before us the cross of Christ. By its observance in the church there is a "perpetual remembrance of this sacrifice of himself in his death." The first Christians highly treasured the breaking of bread, celebrating it as often as they assembled for worship. The cross was still vivid to them.

At the communion table we have fellowship with our Savior in his sufferings. We meditate with grateful love on his sufferings for us, his people. And how the Son of Man suffered! Oppressed, afflicted, bruised and crushed; misunderstood, misrepresented and forsaken even by friends; he was mocked and scourged, crowned with thorns and spit upon. This agony and terror were his because he bore our sins, and the sacrament with its rich symbolism displays the extent of Christ's suffering for us.

But Christ's suffering for us should result in our readiness to suffer for Christ and his Gospel. If we are content to accept the joy of forgiveness through his suffering without enduring pain for his sake, we have not truly known the fellowship of his sufferings.

*That I may know
him, and the power
of his resurrection,
and the fellowship of
his sufferings, being
made conformable
unto his death.*

Philippians 3:10

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor! We would like to keep in touch with you. Please use the QR code to tell us about yourself.



Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 297 *“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”*

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 5 *“God, My King, Thy Might Confessing”*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD’S ASSURANCE

The Law of God Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Lord God, Eternal and Almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments. But, O Lord, we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, asking you, through your grace, to relieve our distress. Remind us of your compassion, O Father of mercies. Remind us of all the benefits that are ours in Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. We also ask that you grant us daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness, which are pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Matthew 11:28-29 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 604 *“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

Reception of New Members

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 140 *“O Word of God Incarnate”*

Sermon Text Isaiah 45:20-25, pew Bible p. 606

Sermon TURN TO ME AND BE SAVED

*Hymn of Response # 319 *“Day of Judgment! Day of Wonders!”*

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord) # 734

*The Lord’s Benediction

Announcements

Today. Peter Jenkinson and Paul Riggins will be publicly received into the membership of our church by reaffirmation of faith. They have been examined by our session and approved for church membership. May the Lord make Peter and Paul a blessing to us and us to them.

Today, 12:30pm A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.