

# PREPARING FOR GOOD FRIDAY ONLINE

## Good Friday Online Service Information

Our Good Friday online service will include a time of communion. We are asking people to be prepared at home with the elements and quiet atmosphere for this worshipful time. Here are some questions you might have about using this format for communion.

### Why not wait until we gather again for communion?

The COVID-19 situation is an unprecedented one in our life as a church. We have never celebrated communion this way before, and this will not be the norm for us going forward. However, communion is important, as we remember the Gospel and the centrality of the sacrifice of Christ to everything we are. Good Friday is a worshipful service that focuses on Christ's death on our behalf, so communion is a critical part of that.

### Is it OK theologically to have communion at home?

We believe in a "memorial" view of communion, which means that the bread and the cup symbolize the body and blood of Christ. The elements themselves are not transformed or blessed in a special way by priests. However, we do want to treat the Lord's table with respect, reverence, and worship, so we ask people to participate with those attitudes in mind.

Scripture does teach that communion is for the *gathered* Church (I Cor 11:17,20). Since online is our sole means of gathering at this time, this is how we will observe communion together. *We are asking that you plan to participate at 7:00pm on Friday with us, so we are all participating at the same time.*

Scripture also teaches that communion is to be "in remembrance of Christ" (I Cor 11:25). This will most certainly be the focus of this worship service.

### How do I prepare?

Pastor Marc will be leading through the time of communion in much the same way as our normal communion services. You can simply follow his lead and participate.

Set aside some type of bread or cracker, and some type of grape juice. We recommend staying with those elements to help you remember the elements served by the Lord to His disciples. Prepare your place of participation to be quiet and free from distraction. We recommend turning off anything that would direct your attention away from the service while it is occurring. To be focused on Christ, we should avoid taking communion while thinking about or being engaged in anything else.

### What about my children?

We are approaching this communion service with the same things in mind as usual—that it is for believers only, regardless of age. If children would not usually participate in communion during our services, then this should be consistent with that. Our pastors recommend baptism as a reasonable milestone for beginning to participate in communion. We find that explaining this to your kids ahead of time is a good approach, which communicates to them the importance of placing their faith in Christ for their own salvation.