

Communion

During the meal Jesus took some bread in his hands. He blessed the bread and broke it. Then he gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this. It is my body." Jesus picked up a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. He gave it to his disciples, and they all drank some. Then he said, "This is my blood, which is poured out for many people, and with it God makes his agreement. "



Mark 14:22-24

Every time the church gathers together for the Lord's Supper, it joyfully proclaims that, wonder of wonders, Jesus still chooses the same kind of sinful dinner companions which once got him into so much trouble. Thank God. William Willimon Sunday Dinner

What were the events surrounding this meal?
What makes it so special?

The Christian Church has believed many things about this simple meal. Here are some of them.

Bread and wine **BECOME** the body and blood of Christ – transubstantiation - the traditional Catholic position

The body of Christ is **WITHIN** the substance of bread and wine – consubstantiation – Luther

At the time of the communion we communicate with the **REAL PRESENCE** of Christ – Calvin

At communion we **REMEMBER** what Christ did and said and so give thanks for Christ's love – Zwingli

Calvin also said the Lord's Supper was "a kind of **CHANNEL** by which everything that Christ has and is, is derived to us".

Which of these statements reflects your experiences and feelings at a communion service?

Being Part of the Story



Unit 6 The Story of Our Life Together

A resource in preparation for
confirmation

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*Q. What is the chief end of man?
A. Man's chief end is to glorify God.
The Shorter Catechism*



Put something used in worship on a table. (It may be a chalice, or communion tray, a cross, a hymnbook or anything else that reminds you of worship).

After a short time reflecting tell a story related to the object, an experience of worship.

How do we glorify God?
Is worship confined to a church service?
What do we do in our church services to worship God?
How does your worship life affect you?

Talk about the general structure of your Sunday Morning Service. What are the key elements?

What place does music have?
Why do we sing?

Prayer

*Grandmother: "Do you say your prayers every night?"
Grandson: "Oh, yes!"
Grandmother: "And every morning?"
Grandson: "No. I'm not scared in the daytime."
From The Prayer of the Frog by Anthony de Mello*

Prayer has been described as the language of love. Through prayer we communicate with God.

What do you understand by prayer?

In our services there are often four types of prayer:

Adoration: when we give praise for who God is.
Confession: as we say sorry for things done or not done
Intercession: when we seek change in the world, bringing to God concerns for ourselves and others.
Blessing : an affirmation that God goes with us.

Using books of prayers choose one prayer of each type. See what makes them different. Having put the books to one side write one prayer of your own. Use language that is meaningful to you.

Can prayer be used at other times?
When would you pray?

If prayer is communication with God how can we hear God?
Where do we see a response?

The Sacraments

*Q. What is a sacrament?
A. 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 Shorter Catechism*

The Catholic Church recognised 7 sacraments at crucial stages of life: Eucharist or Holy Communion, baptism, penance, confirmation, holy orders, marriage, anointing of the sick. At the Reformation only two were seen as sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper since these are the only ones instituted by Christ. The remainder were simply said to be rites of the church. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodists, talked of the "means of grace". He saw baptism and communion together with the reading of scripture and the preaching of the word as being the means by which God's grace is made known.