

Aveleigh's Communion Sunday July 9, 2017
Your Year of Worship
Title REMEMBERING HOPE
Texts: 1 Cor. 11:23-26 p. 1230 & Job 8:8-13 TLB

"Read the history books and see for we were born but yesterday and know so little; our days here on earth are as transient as shadows. But the wisdom of the past will teach you. The experience of others will speak to you, reminding you that **THOSE WHO FORGET GOD HAVE NO HOPE**. Job 8:8-13 TLB

1. THOSE, What happens when you forget God.

"Read the history books" Job 8:8 TLB

2. WHO, Hope is more than philosophy, psychology, & religion.

"see for we were born but yesterday and know so little" Job 8:9 TLB

3. FORGET, All those are left with is, optimism, wishful thinking, & expectations.

"our days here on earth are as transient as shadows. But the wisdom of the past will teach you." Job 8: 10 TLB

4. GOD, Certain HOPE, This certain hope of being saved is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls, connecting us with God himself behind the sacred curtains of heaven, where Christ has gone ahead to plead for us from his position as our High Priest Heb. 6:19 NIV

5. HAVE, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Heb. 6:19 NIV

6. NO, "God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged..." Heb. 6:18 NIV

7. HOPE REMENBERS, “.....Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 1 Cor. 11: 23-25NIV

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION Communion is a precious time of and giving thanks for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. Communion is a shared experience with fellow believers. The gospel accounts of the Lords Supper talk about the events surrounding this celebration in Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:17-25; Luke 22:7-22; and John 13:21-30.

In 1 Corinthians 11 Paul the Apostle gives instructions on preparing for and taking Communion. He starts out by explaining that Communion is a sacred time and that it should not be considered a lighthearted event (vs. 18-22). The focus of Communion is to remember the Lord and thank Him for His sacrifice. 1 Corinthians 11:27, 28 “Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.”

What Paul says in these verses about not taking the Lord’s Supper unworthily is reason for us to consider taking proper preparations before the celebration of Communion. What Paul says about not taking the Lord’s Supper unworthily includes two considerations. ONE, Repentance of all sin. So take seriously today’s Prayer of Confession. SECOND, be serious. Do not partake the cup unworthily means, recognize that Jesus is present with you. *Repent* and *recognize* are the primary preparations before the celebration of Communion.

The unleavened bread represents the body of Christ. It is unleavened because in the Bible leaven is a picture of sin. Jesus took the bread, prayed over it, brake it and shared it with His disciples telling them to remember Him when they took Communion with one another.

Though the Bible speaks of wine as the liquid that was consumed during the Lord’s Supper, Aveleigh uses grape juice. The word for wine in Greek is the same word that would be used for grape juice. And, as grape juice is a non-fermented (unleavened) version of wine, Aveleigh feels it is more in keeping with the idea of unleavened bread. Jesus too took the juice which represented His blood, blessed it and shared it with His disciples.

Communion PRAYER of Personal Preparation: Most holy Lord, we come to your table hungry for hope and healing. Come to us through this bread and wine. Strengthen us in body, mind and spirit to do your will in the world. As we gather at your table, make us, who are many, one with you. Draw our hearts and minds into such communion with you and with one another that we may be living signs of your love in the world. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FOR YOUR ROAD AHEAD: 1 What does communion mean to you? 2 What does communion cause you to remember? 3. How do you experience the presents of Christ? 4. How do you explain loaf and cup to others?

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Call To Worship

Leader: Let everyone who thirsts come and drink deeply!

People: Here all who hunger may satisfy themselves freely.

Leader: Why should we spend our money for that which is not bread?

People: Why do we labor for that which cannot satisfy?

Leader: Here you may feast on the goodness of the Lord.

People: Now those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled.

Leader: It shall be to the Lord a memorial,

People: And for us an everlasting sign that we shall not be cut off. Amen!

Prayer of confession

Most gracious God: We acknowledge that what we are about to receive at your Son's table is a gift of your amazing grace. We can never be worthy to partake of this bread and this wine, symbols of our Lord's body and blood. But we could be, indeed we should be, one caring, loving community around this table, and we are not. There are things that keep us apart: pride, mistrust, petty vested interests. By yielding to them, we allow our unity to be weakened, our witness to be impaired.

Have mercy on us, most merciful God, for we feel troubled and threatened in a troubling, threatening world. Help us to sort out the things we can change from the things we cannot change, and then grant us courage to change the former while living with the latter. Renew our commitment to the peace and unity of our church. After breaking bread today around this table, may we be more skillful in forbearing and loving one another. For Jesus' sake. Amen.