

Greetings members and friends of First Congregational Church of Shelburne,

Attached is the Sunday Worship Resource for May 3. After consultation with the Deacons of the Church, this Sunday will include the celebration of Communion.

This is being offered in two ways.

Worship Resource and a YouTube video. This week's Worship Resource is the order of service that I will follow on a video that will be posted on the church's web site by Saturday evening. To participate you will need:

A copy of the Worship Resource

Two elements for communion: a drink (any kind of juice or water
(yes to wine)

Bread of any kind or a cracker.

To access the YouTube video.

Once you start the video you will be able to participate in the service from home.

Worship Resource only. You will need a copy of the resource plus a drink and bread as suggested in the previous paragraph. You may follow the written service, saying the prayers and reading the scripture. When you come to Communion, you are empowered to read the invitation, the consecration, bless the bread and cup, partake of both, and then conclude with the Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Benediction. While the Lord's Table has always been a strong community experience, *new occasions teach new duties*, as the old hymn goes. Remember in your celebration that you are connected to the body of Christ and you are individually members of it.

Please remember we include prayer requests every week. Any requests may be sent to me at pastor01089@gmail.com.

And there is a new Chapel Moment. Click on the link on our web page.

See you on Sunday on video, or in spirit,
Pastor Rob

Welcome to Communion Sunday Worship

May 3, 2020

Good Morning to our members and friends at home,

On this first Sunday of May, in consultation with the Deacons, this resource is designed for the celebration of Communion. In preparation for this service, please have two elements ready. First, a drink in a cup or glass. This could be juice of any kind or water. (yes, wine is also acceptable) Second, a piece of bread of any kind. From sliced, to French, a hamburger roll to a Triscuit cracker, all may be used.

I hope to have a YouTube video posted on our webpage by Saturday that follows this order of worship and includes Communion. If you are unable to access the video, you are welcome and encouraged to follow this resource on your own and celebrate Communion by reading the Communion prayers and serving yourself keeping in mind that even when alone, we are all a part of the body of Christ.

And now let us be in worship

A Call to Worship Psalm 145

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; One generation shall praise thy works to another. We will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. And we shall speak of thy greatness. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.

Morning Prayer & Lord's Prayer

O God, when we are grumblers who magnify resentments into wrongs, forgive us. When we are bigots who cherish false opinions as the truth, forgive us. When we are fools who must be suffered gladly, forgive us. When we are cynics who ignore your grace, forgive us. When we hear your call and refuse to listen, forgive us. Grant us your mercy, O God, and teach us to forgive ourselves and others, for the sake of Christ who taught us pray saying... *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Prayers of the People

This morning's prayer centers on healing and includes multiple places for silent prayer. Please remember Fleurette in your prayers for healing, she is experiencing extreme back pain. Please remember all those who have been touched by COVID 19 and all those who are on the front lines of this pandemic.

Let us come to God in prayer.

Gracious God, who in Jesus did bring sight to the blind, who did speak the words and the lame lifted themselves up and stood on solid ground, who did touch and disease melted away, who did look with compassion on those who mourn and who did walk into the wilderness unafraid, **hear these our prayers for those who are in need of your healing...silent time.**

We lift to you those who suffer in illness, those who have long since forgotten what it was like to live in health and who wake each morning to another day of unrelenting pain. Those who endure and endure and endure.

If not your healing of body, O God, then your healing of the heart, to bring a cool respite of peace in the heat of their struggle. To bring a welcome calm in the midst of their storm. To walk with them in their wilderness.

We pray for those who are in need of your healing...silent time.

For those whose minds trouble them, who are unable to live in the reality around them that they cannot see, nor hear, nor understand. We pray for those trapped in the downward spiral of

despair, those who are bent over by the burden of a darkness that is ever thickening, robbing them of energy, enthusiasm and the spirit of life itself. If not a healing of the mind, then a healing of the heart that they may know you are with them in their wilderness, walking beside them

We pray for those who are in need of your healing...silent time.

For Those who once knew love, friendship, support and care, and now cry the tears of loss. Loss of spouse, loss of child, loss of lover, loss of friend and neighbor. Heal, O God, their broken hearts, that they may know all are in your holy and safe keeping and that you are with them in the wilderness of loss and loneliness.

We pray this day for those who are in need of your healing,

Those in our community, across our nation and around your entire creation who have been affected by the pandemic. Those who have lost a loved one, those who have struggled through the fever and the pain, those who have lost their livelihood, those who wonder how to feed their families while keeping them all safe. In the midst of this crisis, we offer prayers of thanksgiving for those who step into harm's way for the sake of others, those whom we know of, and those known only unto you. **We pray for nothing less than the healing of your creation.** We pray for your healing touch. Loving God, who grants us life, if only for a moment, Hear these our prayers, we make them in the name of Jesus, Amen

The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He said to them, "What things?" "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said but they did not see him." He said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted

to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So, he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Sacrament of Communion

The Invitation

Whether we gather in our meeting house, in the hall, on our front lawn, on the beach, upon a mountain top, or in living rooms, when we gather to break bread in remembrance of Jesus, when we gather to pass the cup of life and to acknowledge our new covenant in Christ, we have gathered around the Lord's Table. All are welcome here. Where you have been, where you are today, what you have done in this life, or left undone, if you are broken, or whole, joyful or tearful, wandering or confused, you are welcome here in the hopes of finding God's love, God's forgiveness, God's mercy, and God's healing in this bread and in this cup. This is the Lord's table, come from the East and from the West, from the North and from the South, and gather here, not because you must, because you may.

The Prayer of Consecration

O Lord, My God, this journey is too great for us: unless you feed us with the bread from heaven and the cup of life, unless you share with us your own life, victorious over sin, hatred pain and death. Let your spirit flow through our hearts: your strength, be our strength, your love, be our love, your will be our will. As we come to this table, bless this bread from heaven and this cup of life that we may be one with you, in heart, mind and will. Amen.

Blessing of the Bread

On the night that Jesus was to be betrayed, he sat at table with all of his disciples. During the course of the meal, he took bread off the table. When he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
(You break your bread and eat)

Blessing of the Cup

Again, on that same night, Jesus took a cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes. (You may drink from your cup)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, for the bread that we have eaten, for the cup that we have shared, for the table you have granted, we give you thanks and praise. For the life of Christ within us helping us to live for others, for the strength of Christ to lead us all our days of this our life, we give you thanks and praise. For the

blessings you have granted, for the work you place before us, for the gifts of your creation and the promise of your Spirit, we give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God. Amen.

Benediction

God be your comfort and your strength;
God be your hope and support;
God be your light and your way;
And may the blessings of God, Creator,
Redeemer and Giver of life,
remain with you now and forever. Amen.

Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia