

# Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## Good Friday Communion

### INTRODUCTION

Next Friday, 10th April, is Good Friday when we have a service that usually centres around the Lord's Table. That is obviously not possible this year and I was wondering how we could remember the day.

I have had the idea that everybody could celebrate the Lord's Supper in their own homes. I have written a script to be used, and at 11.00 o'clock everybody can read through the script and take communion "together".

The script is based on my usual order of service for communion and includes the scriptures, prayers and instructions. Although everybody will have bread, or rolls or biscuits, very few of you are liable to have grape juice in the house, but some other fruit juice or even water would do just as well is. The elements are just a symbol of the body and blood of our Lord.

Some of you might be able to join together over social media, and perhaps single folk could join together over the phone with someone else. But by everybody celebrating at the same time, 11.00 am, I think it would give a sense of community to know that you are not alone, and that the Emmanuel church family continues.

In the text that follows the Instructions are given in **Bold Upper Case**.

God bless you all,

Chris

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### A COMMUNION SERVICE FOR INDIVIDUAL AND COUPLES AT HOME

#### PREPARATION

Make some small cubes of bread or pieces of biscuit; and a small glass of juice or water. These are just symbols so use whatever you have that is convenient.

#### PRAY

Lord God, my heavenly Father, I come before you now, on this Good Friday morning, to remember what your Son, your one and only begotten Son did for me when He died on the cross to cleanse me from my sin. I bring you my heartfelt thanks, love and devotion. I pray for all my Emmanuel church family who are also meeting in their own homes at this time. May we all know your joy and peace in our hearts as we celebrate communion together. Amen.

**READ THE PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE** where the apostle Paul talks about the *Institution of the Lord's Supper*

#### **1 Corinthians 11** *Institution of the Lord's Supper*

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; <sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; <sup>[b]</sup> this is My body which is broken <sup>[c]</sup> for you; do this in remembrance of Me." <sup>25</sup> In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

<sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Paul goes on to say

<sup>27</sup> Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood <sup>[d]</sup> of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner <sup>[e]</sup> eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's <sup>[f]</sup> body. <sup>30</sup> For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. <sup>31</sup> For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. <sup>32</sup> But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

**PAUSE FOR A MOMENT'S SILENT PRAYER** while we all examine ourselves before God.

**READ THE PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 53 verses 4 to 6

*Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows;  
Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.*

<sup>5</sup> *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*

<sup>6</sup> *All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way;  
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

**PRAY** this prayer of thanks for the bread

Lord God Our Heavenly Father. Thank you for sending your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world to be our/my Saviour. Isaiah, in his prophecy, foretells that Jesus would suffer, and we know from the record in the gospels the pain, anguish and agony that Jesus underwent during His trial and on the cross. And the wonderful thing about it is, that Jesus did it all for me. I take this bread, and it reminds me that I have a wonderful Saviour, who gave His life a ransom for sinners. Thank you, Jesus. Amen

#### **SAY**

*And Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*

#### **TAKE AND EAT A PIECE OF BREAD.**

#### **PRAY this prayer of thanks for the cup**

Lord God Our Heavenly Father. An old hymn says that

*Not all the blood of beasts,  
On Jewish altars slain,  
Could give the guilty conscience peace,  
Or wash away its stain.*

*But Christ, the heavenly Lamb,  
Takes all our sins away;  
A sacrifice of nobler name,  
And richer blood than they.*

Once again I/we say thank you for sending Jesus to be my/our Saviour, for shedding His blood that my/our sins might be forgiven. As I/we take this cup we remember the sacrifice that Jesus made on my/our behalf. Amen

#### **SAY**

*Likewise Jesus also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."*

#### **TAKE AND DRINK A SIP OF JUICE/WATER.**

#### **READ THIS PASSAGE FROM HEBREWS CH 12**

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup> For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

#### **MEDITATE**

Jesus died on the cross for you and me.

Jesus rose from the dead on the third day.

Jesus ascended to heaven.

Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Jesus intercedes to the Father for you and me.

May we keep on "looking unto Jesus" every day.

May we not become weary and discouraged in these difficult days.

#### **PRAY**

Lord God Our Heavenly Father, We, together with the rest of our Emmanuel church family, have spent this time in fellowship with you, remembering your love for us and the sacrifice of our Saviour. Be with us all as we live our separate lives until we can meet together again when this coronavirus has been conquered.

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen