

Bulletin, Announcements, Lord's Supper Insert and HCF Church Covenant



February 18, 2018

Congregational Singing

This Is Amazing Grace

Harvest Praise Team

Welcome and Announcements

Chad Seay

Quiet and Worshipful Reflection – God Who Saves: El Moshah

Invocation/Prayer of Confession

Pastor Joel

Congregational Singing

Jesus Thank You
Take My Life

The Lord's Supper

Elders

Children's Catechism – All children K-5 are invited to come forward.

Worship through Offering

Toby Myers

Offertory/Congregational Singing

One Thing Remains

Harvest Praise Team

If you are visiting with us today please do not feel compelled to give. If you filled out a visitor card feel free to put it in the offering basket.

Worship in the Word

John 3:1-21

“Nick at Night”

Pastor Joel

Closing Song

Take My Life (Reprise)

Church Covenant

Alex Crain

Next Week's Sermon: John 3:22-36. Speaker is Alex Crain.

Children's Catechism: What do we believe by true faith? We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and **in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord.**

Sunday school: Each week from 9:00 to 9:50...coffee and bagels at 8:30.

New Members' classes: Today at 4:00 at HCF offices (Session 2: The History of the Church). Please know that taking the new members' class does not obligate you to join HCF.

Fuge Camps – 2018: Fuge camps at North Greenville University in Tigerville, SC. The dates are June 18th – 23rd. Check it out at fugecamps.com. We have 50 spots so these will be first come first served. Please see the signup sheet at the back table. We will need adult chaperones/drivers. For more information please contact Jonathan Atkinson at kwatkinson4@gmail.com or (804) 441-2695.

Women's Inductive Bible Studies – Book of Philippians

Central Mechanicsville: Wednesdays - 6:00-7:30 p.m., Phyllis Abbott's home, 7225 Hanover Grove Lane (Ph. 746-7930, stevenphyllis@comcast.net)

King William: 7:00-8:30 p.m. (meeting every other Tuesday night), Mae Stewart's home, 357 Nottoway Lane (Ph. 239-6946, maecstewart@gmail.com).

New Kent/Quinton: Wednesdays – 9:30-11:30 a.m., Priscilla Riley's home, 3731 Horseshoe Drive (Ph. 241-9837, pcriley79@gmail.com)

Youth Gathering: Wednesdays - 6:45 to 8:00pm.

There will be an elder (Joel Bradberry) available in the conference room at the conclusion of worship to pray with you or attempt to answer any questions you have about HCF or the Christian faith.



Dear Friend,

Thank you for joining us in worship. As you will notice we will observe the Lord's Supper today. This is a joyous time for all believers as we feast at our Lord's Table. You need not be a member at Harvest to participate—we simply ask that you be a professing believer to partake.

We want to be clear as to what we believe happens during the Lord's Supper so that you are adequately informed before the bread and cup are distributed. (By the way, these elements will be distributed to you. You will not need to leave your seat. Please take the bread and cup and wait until all have been served. We will partake together).

So, what happens at the Lord's Table? First, imperfect believers act in obedience to their Lord's command. The Lord's Supper is one of two ceremonies ordained by Jesus for his church, the other being baptism. The Lord's Supper is a visible representation of the gospel and is therefore good news for weary saints—not sinless ones. So we confess known sin and gladly receive the bread and cup.

Second, as we experience the elements, we commemorate Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection which he accomplished for our atonement. The bread and cup are signs of the body and blood of Jesus. As signs they point to the realities of his body and blood; however, the signs are not the same as the things they point to. The bread is bread and not the real body of Jesus. Likewise the cup is juice of the vine and not the blood of the Savior.¹ Led by the Holy Spirit we obediently remember the person and work of Jesus on our behalf.

Third, the body of Christ—the church—engages in true fellowship with God and each other at the Table. Unity is demonstrated by our common dependence

on Christ—we eat from a common loaf and drink the fruit of the vine poured from a common cup. The Table spread before us today is a forerunner of the future Marriage Supper of the Lamb described in Revelation 19.

Fourth, we celebrate. Commemorating Christ and his gospel is ultimately joyous. It is an occasion whereby we offer sacrifices of praise and joyfully look forward to his return to usher in the consummation of his kingdom. We celebrate each time the gospel is heralded. The good news is not simply old news to maturing Christians. In fact, mature believers understand that the gospel is not only the spark that ignites eternal life but is also the fuel that sustains it. Hearing the gospel time and again is great joy! Seeing the gospel in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, likewise, is a source of great joy.

Fifth, as we experience continual reminders of our position in Christ, we align our lives to God's ways. We walk closer with Christ motivated more by love than compulsion. In other words, we grow to love God with all of our hearts, souls, minds, and strength; and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Finally, and perhaps most significant, we cooperate with God in his supernatural work of sanctification. Our obedience in examining ourselves in light of God's holiness, remembering Christ's atonement for our sins, communing with God and one another, celebrating the Gospel, and partaking of the elements is supernaturally used of God to make us more conformed to the image of his Son. In this sense we can say that God, not man, is the primary actor during the Lord's Supper. God the Father, through the Holy Spirit, faithfully assures us of our salvation, security, home in heaven, forgiveness of sins, and all of the benefits that accompany our adopted status as children of God through our union with Christ. We are nurtured and our faith is strengthened by Christ at his table.

What will happen today at the Lord's Table? In short, God will sanctify us and strengthen our faith as we hear, see, touch, smell, and taste the gospel. We, in obedience to our Master, remember his sacrificial death. Through the work of the Holy Spirit we feed on Christ—our faith is strengthened by the assurance of all his benefits provided for his church. There is great joy as we draw sustenance from a common loaf and a common cup. Such joy excites faith and love. Such joy motivates us towards loving obedience to the two great commandment

Grace and Peace to you,
HCF Elders

¹ At HCF we use grape juice.

At Harvest Christian Fellowship, there is also great emphasis placed on community, i.e., how we are to live together as part of a local church. Our church covenant, adapted from one of the earliest Baptists covenants, details how each member at HCF covenants and agrees to live with one another. We ask that every member at HCF sign the church covenant as a testimony to our common understanding of how we will live together in this faith community.

On each Sunday where the Lord's Supper is celebrated, we review our commitment to each other by reading this covenant in unison.

The Church Covenant

- Having, as we trust, been brought by Divine Grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to Him and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully enter or renew our covenant with each other.
- We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- We will walk together in brotherly love, as becomes the members of a Christian Fellowship; exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require.
- We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others.
- We will endeavor to bring up such as may at any time be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends.
- We will rejoice at each other's happiness, and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows.
- We will seek, by Divine aid, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life.
- We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this fellowship, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the fellowship, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.
- We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.
- 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.