



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 commandments.

Grace and Peace to you,

HCF Elders

¹ At HCF we use grape juice.



September 9, 2018 – ONLINE VERSION

Congregational Singing <i>From the Day</i>	Harvest Praise Team
Welcome and Announcements	Chad Seay
Quiet & Worshipful Reflection – The Spirit of Truth	
Invocation/Prayer of Confession	Barry Taylor
Congregational Singing <i>Mercy</i>	
Children’s Catechism – All children K-5 are invited to come forward.	
The Lord’s Supper	Elders
Worship through Offering	Shad Gilley
Offertory/Congregational Singing <i>In Christ Alone</i>	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 15:18-16:4	“World Hatred” Pastor Joel
Closing Song <i>Doxology</i>	Harvest Praise Team
Church Covenant	Alex Crain

Next Week’s Sermon: John 16:5-33. Speaker is John Riley.

Children’s Catechism: **What are the sacraments or ordinances?** Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

Sunday School: Each week from 9:00 to 9:50AM...coffee and bagels at 8:30AM. Curriculum starts a new 3-year schedule covering entire Bible. If you don’t belong to a Sunday School class, now is the perfect time to join!

9Marks Conference: SEBTS - Sept. 28-29, and the topic is missions. Speakers include Chuck Lawless, Mark Dever, Thabiti Anyabwile, John Folmar, Trip Lee, and Andy Johnson. Call the church office at 256-1200 or email nancy.wicker@hcfellowship.com to register and get the group rate.

HCF Worship & Prayer Gathering: Sunday, Sept. 30th at 6:00PM.

Redemption Books Now Open! - Come celebrate our opening! Redemption Books is the community face of the Richmond Center for Christian Study. We carry books and DVDs on worldview, apologetics, culture and theology, including Bibles, Children’s section and Used section (book donations always accepted). Tues-Fri 11am-5:30pm, Sat 10am-6pm. 3008 Stony Point Road (next to Gelati Celesti). 330-2812.

Evangelism Seminar: Oct. 6th at HCF. A light breakfast begins at 8:30AM.

Women’s Bible Studies:

Mechanicsville: Every other Thursday at 7:00pm at the home of Kim Bradberry. They are studying the book of James.

New Kent/Quinton: Wednesdays – 9:30-11:30AM, at the home of Priscilla Riley. They are studying the book of Acts.

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

There will be an elder (Barry Taylor) 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.

