

Until He Comes

I received a tradition from the Lord, which I also handed on to you: on the night on which he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this to remember me." He did the same thing with the cup, after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Every time you drink it, do this to remember me." Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you broadcast the death of the Lord until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26, CEB)

When we gather for worship this weekend on World Communion Sunday, we will be participating in something much, much bigger than ourselves. As Paul says, every time we share the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper, we are 'broadcasting' or 'proclaiming' the death of Jesus Christ to anyone who is watching and listening. By sharing in this faith habit, we are identifying ourselves with Christ Jesus in his death, remembering that he laid down his life for every one of us.

That's not all. We also identify with Jesus in his Resurrection, claiming that same power for our everyday living. And we look forward to that day when Jesus will return and we will dine at his heavenly banquet table with people from all different generations, ethnicities, languages, and so on.

Sharing in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is yet another **means of grace** that we participate in, so that we might receive the amazing grace of God in a powerful way. Yet, this means of grace is somewhat different than the last few we've talked about. Unlike Searching the Scriptures or Praying, faith habits which can be done on our own, this one is designed to happen only within the context of community. In other words, we don't just offer ourselves communion privately. It's always meant to be shared in community - note the connection between the words **communion** and **community**.

And so it's even more powerful to realize that, this week, we will be sharing it on a Sunday when people all over the globe will also be receiving communion. As we prepare to come to worship this Sunday, I invite you to consider people of faith in Christ from all over the world and how this particular means of grace helps to connect us with them, and them with us. We remember that Christ died for every person that we encounter, whether we have a lot in common with them or not. When we start to view people this way and love them the way Christ loves them, we will broadcast the Good News of Jesus to the world.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor David

September 28, 2017