

# The Lord's Supper: Table Fellowship

Adapted from: Baptist Union of Great Britain, *Gathering for Worship: Patterns and Prayers for the Community of Disciples* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2005), pp.43-45.

*There are PowerPoint slides to use with this pattern should the Minister or other leading communion wish to use it to enable the congregation to follow and respond accordingly.*

*This pattern is well-suited in a domestic setting, or as part of a shared meal. The words designated for the leader to speak may be spoken by whoever the gathering appoints. The leader's words are in ordinary type. The bold type signifies the whole company.*

## Greeting

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Selected scripture verses may be read here from Colossians 2.9–15, 3.1–4, 12–17; following which, reflections on the Scripture passage by those present may be shared.*

## Invitation

We are invited to come together around this table as those who belong to the household of Christ, brothers and sisters who in our baptized lives live out the death and resurrection of Jesus. The family of the reborn and the reconciled, who inhabit a universe of grace.

## Confession

Remembering the death and resurrection of the one who is our life and our meaning, we come first to die to all that is loveless and death dealing in our lives. Jesus commands us to love God with all our heart and soul, mind and strength.

*Silence to consider the reality of our living, after which the leader invites the company to say together these words of confession*

**My brothers and sisters,  
I have not kept this commandment;  
forgive my godlessness and pray for me,  
that God will light the fire of his love in my heart.**

Jesus commands us to love our neighbours in the same way that we love ourselves.

*Silence, again to think about what we have been, after which the leader invites those present to say together the following words of confession*

**I have been selfish, hard-hearted and mean spirited.  
Forgive me, my friends,  
and pray that God's grace  
will melt and warm my heart.**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

The Lord has promised that if we confess our sins  
he is faithful and just to forgive our sins  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
Do you desire this grace and cleansing?  
**Without it there is no hope for me.**

Our Lord has warned  
that those who ask for forgiveness themselves  
must also practise forgiveness.  
Are you prepared to be generous and forgiving  
to those who have hurt you and to let go of all bitterness?  
**I am but I will need God's help and yours.**

Jesus is our peace.  
He has reconciled those who were divided  
through his body on the cross.  
He came and preached peace to everyone, far and near,  
because it is through him  
that we all can come to the Father in the one Spirit.  
**Grace and peace to you  
from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Let us greet each other.

*A pause here allows for individual expressions of apology, conversations, prayer,  
and thanksgiving.*

So as those committed to the life of grace,  
we hear the story of the first Lord's supper:

*Luke 22.14–27 is read.*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Before Jesus broke the bread, before he poured the wine,  
he gave thanks to you, Lord God, King of the universe,  
giver of every good thing,  
of food and drink, of companionship and love,

of all that gives us strength and delight.  
Like him we bless you for your generosity.

Breaking the bread,  
Jesus spoke about the destruction of his own body,  
the result of human cruelty, indifference and envy.  
Remembering his courage and integrity,  
his willingness to die for the grace he proclaimed,  
we bless you for our redemption, won at such cost.

Sharing the bread,  
Jesus promises to be with us always,  
and we acknowledge and delight in his presence here now.  
We bless you for his Spirit binding us together  
in a new and hope-filled humanity.  
Fill us again, Lord, and empower us  
to live together in the peace and truth of the gospel.

*The bread is broken and shared, with everyone serving one another, and then the wine is shared with everyone serving one another.*

## Post Communion

We turn to the days ahead and say together:

**Go with us Lord,  
so that we can love in all sincerity,  
loathing what is evil and clinging to what is good.  
We will be devoted to one another as brothers and sisters,  
honouring each other above ourselves;  
we will be joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.  
We will share with God's people who are in need  
and practise hospitality.  
With your help we will bless those who persecute us,  
blessing and not cursing.  
We will not repay evil for evil.  
We will not be overcome by evil,  
but by the power of your Spirit  
we will overcome evil with good.  
Go with us good Lord  
and live in us the life of the Kingdom.**

## Greeting

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**