

The Lord's Supper: A Story-Telling Pattern

Adapted from: Baptist Union of Great Britain, *Gathering for Worship: Patterns and Prayers for the Community of Disciples* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2005), pp.18-21.

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 for the Lord's Supper uses the upper room narrative, as told by the Apostle Paul, as the framework for the entire meal. The opening words of Paul's narrative account remind us that this meal is not the dull repetition of a past event, but is a dynamic handing on or unfolding of a not yet completed story which is uniquely given and received in every time and place. The distinctive feature in this communion pattern which has been characteristic of the way the Lord's Supper has been celebrated by Baptists for centuries is that the meal is shared even as the story of the meal in the upper room unfolds. The sharing of bread is accompanied by a thanksgiving prayer and then later in the meal the sharing of the wine in the same way is accompanied by a prayer of thanksgiving. The words of thanksgiving and the calling upon the Holy Spirit to bless them are said by the congregation.

Following the service of the word the congregation is invited to gather around the table.

The Invitation

Here is the table of the Lord,
we are gathered to his supper,
a foretaste of things eternal.
Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love.
Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith.
Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole.
Come, old and young,
there is room for all

The Peace

The kingdom of God is justice and peace.
Let us then pursue
the things that make for peace.
Where lies abound,
you call us to speak truth:
we will speak truth.
Where greed takes all,
you call us to act justly:
we will act justly.
Where violence consumes,

you call us to live peacefully:

we will live peacefully.

Where death mocks us,
you call us to live in Christ:

we will live in Christ.

We set aside our wisdom,
our will,
our words.

We empty our hearts
and bring nothing in our hands.

We yearn for the healing,
the holding,
the accepting,
the forgiving,
which Christ alone can offer.

So may the peace of the Lord
rest within us
and remain with us
today and always. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be invited to share the sign of the peace with one another,
using this time for reconciling relationships and deepening fellowship.*

The Story and the Thanksgiving

The tradition
which I hand on to you,
comes from the Lord himself.

The Loaf

For on the night of his arrest,
Jesus took bread,
gave God thanks
and then broke it,
saying,

This is my body that is for you.

Do this and remember me.

For the bread

we eat day by day:

God be blessed for ever.

For the bread of the great day
that feeds us for new life:

God be blessed for ever.

Jesus, true and living bread,
touch all our days

and fit us for your new day's dawning:

God be blessed for ever.

Nourish us with bread for the journey,
disciples in your way
this day and always.

Come, Holy Spirit;

**feed us with your love
and renew us with your life.
We eat to remember.**

As the bread is shared, prayer songs may be sung.

The Cup

In the same way,
Jesus took the cup after supper and said,
This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood.
Do this,
as often as you drink it,
and remember me.
For the wine
that makes hearts glad:
God be blessed for ever.
For the wine
that seals the covenant:
God be blessed for ever.
Jesus, true and living vine,
make hearts glad
and lives safe.
God be blessed for ever.
Enliven us with the wine of the kingdom,
this day and always.
**Come, Holy Spirit;
fill us with your love
and renew us with your life
We drink to remember.**

As the cup is shared, prayer songs may be sung.

The Proclamation

As often as you eat this bread
and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Concluding Prayers

Loving God,
we thank you that you have nourished us at this table.
We pray for those who hunger and thirst –
may they be filled!
And may we, with them,

feast at the table of your eternal kingdom.
This we ask through Jesus Christ,
who was and is and is to come,
and who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Jesus said,
As the Father sent me,
So I send you:
Come, Holy Spirit
Empower us with your love
inspire us with your life.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

The Blessing

Go now and as you go
know this:
in grace you were created,
in mercy you have been sustained
in love you will be held for ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal to Serve

Our worship is ended:
our service begins.