

The Lord's Supper: Re-membering and Reconciling

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 explores and celebrates the many meanings implicit in Jesus invitation: 'do this to remember me'. It highlights how the action of 're-membering' is a past, present and future tense experience. When we re-member: broken damaged and dismembered aspects of our past lives are put together again; mind and body and soul in the present tense enjoy wholeness; and helplessness in the face of the unknown future gives way to resurrection hope.

Words of Approach

We gather at this table to celebrate Life:
the life of God in the world,
made flesh and blood in Jesus,
embodied in us.

We come to re-member
the body that was broken:
the hands that touched the untouchable,
healed the hurting and did no violence;
the feet that got dusty along city streets
and at the lake's shore;
the arms that welcomed the stranger
and embraced the outcast;
the legs that entered homes and synagogues
and danced at celebrations;
the eyes that blazed against injustice,
knew how to cry
and saw the potential in everyone;
the belly that shared table with unexpected people
and shook with laughter;
the lips that wove stories and painted pictures
of a new community and a better world.

This blessed body
that was broken, abused and rejected,
we come to re-member,
for we are called to be the body of Christ.

As you Risen Christ re-member our lives,
so we re-member you.
And not only at this table,
but in our life together
may we embody your kingdom
and re-member your life in the world.

Words of Thanksgiving

O God,
we give thanks for this bread and wine:
A timeless reminder
of the flesh-and-blood life of Jesus:
broken,
rejected,
yet unstoppable.

In Christ we see

- a life that could not be ended by death
- a purpose that could not be silenced by the forces of violence
- a desire deep within you for the transformation of the world.

As we eat the bread and drink the wine:
we thank you
for the acceptance and tenderness
with which you have transformed our shame into dignity
and loved us into life;
we thank you
for cherishing the potential in us
and for calling us to be partners
in your vision for this world.

As we eat the bread and drink the wine:
we call on your Spirit
to come alongside us, so that
together, in the company of your spirit
we may give ourselves afresh
to the task of re-membering you,
of being the body of Christ,
of living your life in this world. **Amen.**

The Sharing

The bread is broken as these words are said

This broken bread we share
is the body of Christ.

It is a sign
of all that we live and risk together
as the community of Christ.
Let all who seek Christ take and eat.

The Bread is Shared

The cup is lifted as these words are said

This cup we drink together is the wine of the kingdom of God,
the sign of God's undertaking for the life of the world.
Let all who seek Christ take and drink.

The Wine is Shared

Prayer after Communion

We have taken bread and wine into our bodies.
Now may these hands be the hands of Christ in the world,
may they do no violence.

May these eyes see those who are overlooked,
may these ears listen to those who are unheard,
may these voices be raised for the voiceless,
lest our songs of praise be empty.

May these feet take us where Christ leads,
and may these hearts and minds be open to your Spirit.
Christ has re-membered us,
may we re-member Christ. **Amen.**