

Advance notice - virtual communion service - October 4, 2020

The session of Parkwood Church invites the congregation to participate in a “virtual communion” service on Sunday, October 4, 2020. The present pandemic has precluded regular in-person gatherings for worship during much of the spring and summer. Many deeply miss the sense of Christian community that is experienced and celebrated when we gather for worship and fellowship together.

At the heart of our celebration is the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, in which we commune together with each other and with our Lord Jesus Christ. He instituted the Lord’s Supper immediately prior to his crucifixion, to show His followers that He was about to give His body and blood as a sin offering, to provide the ultimate payment for the sins of all who believe. He called upon His followers to share both the staff of life and the fruit of the vine, in remembrance of Him.

On the first Lord’s Day in October each year, many Christians around the world observe “World Communion Sunday”, in a common observance of the Lord’s Supper, proclaiming Christ’s death to save the world.

This year, while we are still under restrictions — embraced wisely to maintain physical distance in aid of slowing the spread of the contagious illness that has afflicted more than thirty million people throughout the world — we will undertake to share with fellow believers in this virtual communion celebration.

We plan to connect in worship online, as we have endeavoured to do each Sunday since late March. and to share in meditating on God’s word and in communing together. We invite those who personally profess Jesus Christ to be Saviour and Lord to join us at 10 a.m., and during the service to partake in communion.

In preparation for this, we invite you in advance to obtain and set aside on a small table a plate or dish on which you can place a piece of bread, bun, or biscuit. If you are alone, the piece may be small; if you worship as a family or household, large enough to break into pieces such that each one participating may have a small piece. Similarly, we invite you to have on hand a small glass or cup filled with grape juice; again, if you are two or more together, have sufficient glasses or cups so that each may have one.

We encourage you if necessary to acquire the items and prepare them ahead of the beginning of the worship service.

When conducting worship, after the usual scripture readings and meditation or sermon, the minister will lead in a prayer of consecration of “the elements of bread and wine” and then invite all to share in making a common confession of faith, using the words of The Apostles’ Creed, appended below. After this, all who are connected will be invited to partake in communion together, each in his or her own place.

We pray that this virtual communion service will prove a blessing. Please feel free to contact the pastor or one of the elders in advance if you have any questions. May the Holy Spirit strengthen the bonds that unite us in Christ.

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.