

QUESTchurch

a guide for worship at home | Sunday, December 21, 2008

Due to the inclement weather, Quest has chosen to cancel all services for today. We want to encourage our members to be the church and worship wherever you may be with friends and family. The following is a "guide" we are making available for those that want to use it for their "home" worship gathering.

Gather and Prayer | Read corporate prayer below or an individual or entire family/group lifts their prayers together.

"Gracious God, we praise you and thank you for the awesome gift of divine life and divine love that you have shared with us through our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to listen to you daily and to respond joyfully and wholeheartedly to your calling. Fill us with the Holy Spirit that we may honor you not only with our words and songs but with our lives. Like Mary help us to ponder the message of Christmas in our hearts until that day when Christ will come again in power and glory. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Worship in Songs

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-14 [TNIV]

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Group Sharing and/or Video Message.

Take a few minutes to share your reflections on the passage above if and before you see the video sermon. What does it say? What does it mean? How does it speak to you?

Children's Sharing | Quest kids were supposed to share their "Christmas program" with the church today. If you have kids, ask your child to share the songs or any Scripture they were supposed to share with the larger church family.

Communion * [Liturgy available on next page]

Prayer & Singing of Benediction

Announcements:

- Don't forget the Quest Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24 at the Church Sanctuary. Doors open at 6:30pm and Worship begins at 7pm.

Communion Liturgy

From the time of the New Testament onward, the celebration of the Eucharist, or communion, has been the norm of Christian worship. Along with the reading and proclamation of scripture, the Eucharist has given witness to God's redemptive acts on each Lord's Day, giving Christian worship its distinctive shape.

In this sacrament, the bread and the wine, the words and the actions, make the promises of God visible and concrete. The Word proclaimed in scripture and sermon is confirmed, for all that the life, death, and resurrection of Christ means is focused in the Sacrament.

In communion, the church blesses God for all that God has done, is doing, and promises to do, and offers itself in obedient service to God's reign. The church is renewed and empowered as in thanksgiving it remembers Christ's death, resurrection, and promised return. The people of God are sustained by the promised presence of Christ, and are assured of participation in Christ's self-offering. Being made one with Christ, we are made one with all who belong to Christ, united with the church in every time and place. It is a means, given us by Christ, through which the risen Lord is truly present as a continuing power and reality, until the day of his coming. While the meaning of Christ's sacrificial death is at the heart of this sacrament, it is a resurrected, living Christ whom we encounter through the bread and the wine.

Invitation to the Lord's Table:

Standing at the table, the presider invites the people to the Sacrament, using the following prayer:

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! [See Luke 13:29 and 24:31,31]
They will come from east and west,
And from north and south,
And sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke,
When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
He took bread, and blessed and broke it,
And gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened
And they recognized him.

This is the Lord's table.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
To share the feast which he has prepared.

Great thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you
People : And also with you
Leader: Lift up your hearts
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord
People : it is right to give our thanks and praise

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and highest joy,
That we should at all times and in all places
Give thanks to you, O holy Lord,
Father almighty, everlasting God.

You created the heavens and the earth
And all that is in them.
You made us in your own image;
And in countless ways you show us your mercy

We praise you that in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ,
Your promises given by the prophets were fulfilled
And the day of our deliverance has dawned.
We rejoice in hope as we look for the triumph of his kingdom
When he comes again.

All glory and blessing are yours, O holy God,
For in your great mercy
You gave your only Son, Jesus Christ.
He took our human nature,
And suffered death on the cross for our redemption.
There he made a perfect sacrifice
For the sins of the whole world.

We praise you that before he suffered and died,
Our Savior gave us this holy sacrament
And commanded us to continue it
As a lasting memorial of his death and sacrifice
Until he comes again.

Words of institution

Here gather the bread and the cup, and pray the words of institution.

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus,
On the night before he died,
Took bread,
And after giving thanks to you,
He broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat.
This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Here, tear the bread in half, and hold it so that all can see it, saying "the body of Christ"

In the same way he took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
Shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
Do this in remembrance of me.

Here, pour the wine or grape juice into the cup, and hold it so that all can see it, saying "the blood of Christ"

Allow a moment for all to pray, and serve one another. In giving the bread, say "The Body of Christ, given for you." In giving the cup, say "The blood of Christ, shed for you."