



“I will build my church.”
JESUS

HOUSE CHURCH
SUNDAY LITURGY
AUGUST 23, 2020

Sunday Order

1. Arrive and gather as House Church in host home
2. Open in prayer
3. At 10am, log on to YouTube for worship (Comment to let us know you're there!)
4. Watch service (Sing, Listen to the Word, and Engage)
5. Celebrate Communion (See below)
 - a. Pre-Communion Prayer
 - b. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Liturgy
 - c. Take the elements as community
6. Reflection Questions as House Church (Attached)
7. Close in Prayer
8. See Prayer Resources

Note: Please silence phones in order to be fully present with one another.

Pre-Communion Prayer

Select one person to read John 17:11 and John 17:20-23

I will remain in the world no longer, but my apostles are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one ... (*John 17:11*)

... My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through the apostles' message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given the church the glory you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that the church may be brought to complete unity. (*John 17:20-23*)

Spend a few moments in silent reflection, contemplating Jesus' own prayer that the church is to be unified for sake of witnessing to the world.

Leader: move the group into a time of prayer (see next page)

A Prayer for Unity in the Universal Church

Read aloud as a community or leader, before moving on to 1 Cor. 11

Lord Jesus,

Just as the Church is the one body of Christ, we pray for you to unify us as one family.

As the one Holy Spirit gives life to us, may our strength and power derive from our unity rather than individual gifts.

As the one baptism marks us as your people, may we die to our own needs and differences in order to lift up the needy among us.

As you are the diverse Trinitarian God, yet unified perfectly as Father, Son, and Spirit, empower us to be a unified people made up of different races, ethnicities, perspectives, and economic statuses.

Where there is division, Lord have mercy; unify us.

Where there is explicit or implicit bias, Lord have mercy; unify us.

Where our hope lies in a political candidate, Lord have mercy; unify us around the one hope that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And as we come to the Table to receive the Bread and Cup, remind us of the power that this unifying ordinance has as it reflects the broken body and shed blood of our Savior.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Liturgy

The leader will give out the Communion elements and begin the Communion liturgy by reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’”

Everyone eats the bread together

“In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

Everyone, together, drinks the cup

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What was the most impactful or important thing you heard today from the Lord?
2. This morning we were reminded that unity is a miracle. It is a "unity of the Spirit." Reflect on that—what makes the kind of unity Paul describes a supernatural miracle?
3. This does not mean however that believers have no part to play. Our role is to be eager to maintain the unity. What did you learn today about how we do that? In Paul's list of words in verse 2 (humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, and love) which one challenges you the most?
4. Pastor Adam suggested that there is a way for Christians to talk about complex issues, even ones we disagree about, but to do it in a way that draws attention to our unity in Christ. Reflect on this as a group. Take time to pray together, to thank God for the unity we have in Christ and to pray for his wisdom and grace to maintain it.

Concluding Prayer

As we end our time together as House Churches, let us conclude with one final prayer, sealing up these things in our hearts and lives:

For the Unity of the Church

From The Book of Common Prayer

After this prayer, be dismissed and have a great Sunday!

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior,
the Prince of Peace:

Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions;
take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us
from godly union and concord;

that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one
Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all
of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth
and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and
one mouth glorify you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.