



“I will build my church.”
JESUS

HOUSE CHURCH
SUNDAY LITURGY
SEPTEMBER 6, 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. Communion Liturgy
 - c. Take the elements as community
6. Reflection Questions as House Church (Attached)
7. Close in Prayer
8. Link to Martin Luther King Jr.'s *Letter From Birmingham Jail*

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

Pre-Communion Prayer

Select one person to read Matthew 5:13-16 and 1 Peter 1:13-17

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (*Matthew 5:13-16*).

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile...” (*1 Peter 1:13-17*).

Spend a few moments reflecting on these passages, keeping in mind the call to engage with and seek the good of the world, yet remain holy.

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

A Prayer for Prophetic Holiness and Witness

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

Lord Jesus,

It is by the work of the cross that you redeemed us from the darkness of the world and transferred us into the marvelous light of the Kingdom.

It is by this gracious act that you call us to be with you and learn from you, that we would be holy as you are holy.

Remind us once again, O Lord, that our holiness is not for our gain, but for your glory and for the sake of the world.

Where we have fallen short, grant us mercy and empower us by your Holy Spirit to be the salt and light of the world.

Where we have blended in with culture—exchanging your name for the name of acceptance—may you grace us again with an unwavering identity as a prophetic witness of love, compassion, and justice to our city.

As we come to The Table to receive the Bread and Cup, recall our hearts to the truth that this meal prophetically showcases your radical love for the world, by dying for the world's sins.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit,
Amen.

Communion 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 important thing you heard today from God's Word?
2. What was the most challenging thing you heard?
3. What did you think when Adam mentioned "Ostrich Christianity" and "Chameleon Christianity?" Which do you think is a bigger temptation for the Church today? Which is a bigger temptation for you? Any examples?
4. What does it mean for the church to be the continuation of the story that God has been telling through Old Testament Israel? Why is it so critical for us to understand our place in that story?
5. Take time to talk about the tension in this passage—that in order to be for the world, we must at times be against its darkness. What does it look like to live in that tension? How do we avoid retreating as one extreme or simply becoming absorbed in the world as another?

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:

A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis

From The Book of Common Prayer

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

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

[Click here to read *Letter From Birmingham Jail*](#)