

**WHO SHOULD PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER ?**

**Our feasting at this table proclaims Jesus' saving death until he comes to redeem us fully & make all things new (Rom 8.18-23)**

**1 Cor 11.29** calls us **to discern the body** lest we eat and drink judgment on ourselves. We discern **both Christ's physical body** which bore God's judgment **and the church**, which is the body of Christ (1Cor 12.27). Christ gathers his flock across all human divisions. *Believers, who show they understand this by being baptized into membership in any gospel-proclaiming church, are welcomed to partake of communion.* This is Christ's Table not CPC's or the Presbyterian Church in America's.

**Children** should refrain until they are received into membership by the elders.

**Prayers for those Not Ready to Partake**

*A Prayer to Search for Truth:*

Lord Jesus Christ, you claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life (*John 14.6*). Grant that the cost of following you might not hinder me from considering the reasons I should. If your claims are true, nothing rivals what you say. Guide me, teach me, and open to me who you are. Give me coherent and convincing understanding, that satisfies my deepest needs. Lead me toward the everlasting life with you and your people that you promise (*1 John 1.1-4*). *Amen.*

*Crying Out to God for New Life:*

Lord Jesus Christ, I am weaker, more rebellious toward God, than I've ever admitted. Yet, you offer acceptance greater than I've ever dared to hope. I admit my need for a new kind of life—your life. Thank you for making peace with God possible. You paid my sin's debt on your cross. You took judgment meant for me; you offer forgiveness and fellowship. Believing you've been raised from the dead, I turn to seek my deepest satisfactions in you. I accept you as God and Ruler. I receive you as Savior and Life. Needing you always, I begin to rest upon you for forgiveness, for growth in trusting you, for your love toward neighbors. Increase my longing for the new heaven and new earth you will bring when you return. *Amen.*

**None of us have arrived at a full understanding of the reality that our Creator becomes our Father as we find eternal life in Christ Jesus. If you have questions about where you are on this journey please speak to a pastor or elder.**

[Communion Meditation outline on other side.]

**THE GOSPEL REVEALED AT ADVENT**

**WHO CAN YOU LIVE WITH TO FIND PEACE?**

Pastor David O'Dowd

CPC, December 13, A.D. 2009

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**John 1** <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...<sup>14</sup> and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

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***You'll only find peace abiding with God's omnipotent, suffering Son.***

**ONE: Running from God's Sovereignty will never bring you peace.**

*John 1.1-2, 14*

**TWO: Don't stop trusting because of trials and suffering.** *1Peter 1.2b-12*

**THREE: In his Son God shows his care by coming alongside and dwelling with his people.**

*John 1.11-13*

**Psalm 34** <sup>8</sup> Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!  
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

**John 6** <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.