



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP @ HOME

www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome

The Spiritual Practices of Jesus

September 5, 2021

Prelude

Autumn

We are Called to Worship – Come, all who are hungry and feast at the banquet. Come, all who are thirsty and drink from the cup that overflows. Here at Christ’s table, there is room for you, so gather around and find your place. Welcome to the table. Let us worship.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.

A Time of Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Hear God’s Word

Luke 5:27-32 (CEB)

²⁷ Afterward, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.”

²⁸ Levi got up, left everything behind, and followed him. ²⁹ Then Levi threw a great banquet for Jesus in his home. A large number of tax collectors and others sat

down to eat with them. ³⁰ The Pharisees and their legal experts grumbled against his disciples. They said, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

³¹ Jesus answered, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor, but sick people do. ³² I didn’t come to call righteous people but sinners to change their hearts and lives.”

Meditation

The Spiritual Practices of Jesus: Table Fellowship

We Gather at the Table



Set Your Place at the Table—Communion was first celebrated in the homes of those in the early church. Friends and family would gather together to pray, singing songs, and break bread. We carry on that tradition today. Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So, gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

Our Invitation—Christ welcomes us to this table to share in fellowship with him and with one another. Here the feast is abundant, the welcome is wide, and there is a place for you.

The Words of Institution—On the night when Jesus was to be betrayed, he gathered with his friends in that upper room to celebrate the Passover meal, a meal of remembrance of the liberation of God’s people from slavery in Egypt, a journey that would lead them deep into the wilderness. After the meal was over, Jesus took the bread that was left, broke it, blessed it, and said, “Take and eat, this is my body broken for you.” In the same way, he took the cup, the fruit of the vine, and pouring it out he said, “This is the cup of the new covenant, my blood shed for you and the forgiveness of sins. As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, remember me.” Today, we remember Christ’s body broken for us and blood shed for us as bread is transformed into mercy and wine into compassion. As we prepare to receive this holy meal, let us ready our hearts by confessing our sins to God. Let us pray.

Our Confession— God, you celebrate when sinners and tax collectors gather at your table, but too often, we confess, we tell them there is no room, not just with our words but with our actions, our whispers, our stares. We easily point

out the faults of others without recognizing our own shortcomings. Humble our hearts, O God. Help us to be more compassionate. Forgive us when we fail to enact the abundance and welcome found at your table. Amen.

Assurance of Grace—Christ invites you, come, feast at the table! Here, there is a place for you to experience God’s mercy and compassion. Bring all that you are to the table and know that here there is forgiveness and grace. Taste and see!

Blessing Our Meal— God, as we gather for worship this day, we give you thanks that there is always a place for each and every one of us at your table. Here, we are never turned away. Here, there is always enough. As we gather at your table may we experience your welcome and your grace. May your Holy Spirit pour out blessings into this bread and cup that they might nourish us for the journey ahead, as we carry your welcome and invitation out into the world. Bless this meal and all who partake. Amen.

We Share the Bread and the Cup – As you eat the bread, remember, “This is the body of Christ broken for you.” Take and eat. As you drink the cup, remember, “This is the blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of sins.” Take and drink.

We Give Thanks—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.+

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—With grateful hearts we bring our gifts to God. May these gifts be used to serve and enrich the world around us, as we do Christ’s work together, sharing at the table and enacting his love.

September Benevolence— Since 1994 Horizon House has been serving our neighbors experiencing homelessness, meeting them where they are and providing them with shelter, safety, and services to improve their quality of

life. The mission of Horizon House is this: “Horizon House is a full-service agency that connects individuals experiencing homelessness with integrated, comprehensive services. We provide a safe place and basic services as they take steps towards a more stable life.” Your gifts to Horizon House will directly support our neighbors.

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at www.zionuccindy.net/donate

Doxology

We Give Thanks—God, having received your abundant blessing, we return a portion of what we have to you. We give to you of our resources and our very lives not because we must but because we come with grateful hearts. Thank you, God, for calling us to do your work together. Amen.

Hymn

A Place at the Table, 617 (v. 1, 2, 3, 5)

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing—Today, we have been fed at Christ’s table. Let us rise, now, and carry with us the grace and mercy we have received this day. May the fellowship of Christ’s table sustain you in the week ahead as you go out to do God’s work. Amen.

Postlude

He Folds and Guides Me