

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Vespers Service - Lord's Supper Instructions

June 21st, 2020

We are very excited to gather in person for the Vespers Service this coming Sunday, and we are particularly looking forward to celebrating the sacrament of the Lord's Supper after a long time of going without. What follows is a few detailed instructions about how we intend to serve the sacraments and insure a meaningful and safe distribution of the elements for communion.

General Overview:

- ❖ As we are accustomed to, the preaching of the Word precedes and helps frame the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- ❖ We will prepare our hearts to take the sacrament using the familiar liturgy of preparation: "Lift up your hearts..."
- ❖ We will come forward to receive the bread and the cup by household.
- ❖ A hearty thanks to the Deacons who have labored to make sure that we can partake of the Lord's Supper in a way that ensures safety and preserves as much of the normalcy as possible.

Particular Instructions:

- ❖ We will invite those seated furthest away from the pulpit to come to the table first.
- ❖ Two stations will be set up to receive communion.
 - Each station will be at the end of the longer concrete walkways of the patio (marked green on the map).
 - We ask that each household practice physical distancing when awaiting its turn to receive the elements. There will be clearly designated spaces and arrows for direction on Sunday evening.
- ❖ Households may approach together.
 - Communicants will cup their hands, ready to receive the bread (pre-cut into pieces)
- ❖ A pastor (sanitized, masked, and gloved) will drop a piece of the bread into the communicant's hands.
- ❖ Another server (sanitized, masked, and gloved) will make a cup available for each communicant to pick up.
 - We will have both wine and grape juice available. The wine will be the darker and grape juice the lighter.
- ❖ We will partake upon receiving the elements and communicants may dispose of their cups in a trashcan nearby.
- ❖ Once the elements have been received and partaken, communicants may return to their seats following the lines marked on the sidewalk.

We will review these instructions as best we can before communion, since it is a lot to hold in your head.

Even with these precautions and special measures in place, it may be that you are not comfortable with partaking on Sunday. There is absolutely no shame in holding back, and once again, we have a chance to practice mercy and forbearance with ourselves and others who have different levels of comfort and caution.

