

Online Communion

For Pastors of Congregations Instructions on leading online communion

We believe the Sacraments, ordained by Christ, are symbols and pledges of the Christian's profession and of God's love toward us. They are means of grace by which God works invisibly in us, quickening, strengthening and confirming our faith in him.

We believe the Lord's Supper is a representation of our redemptions, a memorial of the sufferings and death of Christ, and a token of love and union which Christians have with Christ and with one another. Those who rightly, worthily and in faith eat the broken bread and drink the blessed cup partake of the body and blood of Christ in a spiritual manner until he comes. The United Methodist Book of Discipline

With this in mind, you can have the people of your congregation participate in Holy Communion from their homes as you lead online worship.

As with each pastor and local church, there are numerous expressions of presenting and receiving the bread and cup, Christ's broken body and shed blood.

Here is what is necessary for any expression, celebration, or participation.

1. Scriptural setting: Holy Communion is celebrated in the context of worship. When you have worshiped online, you are part of the context. When a scriptural context has not been presented read, one of the following scriptures set the context: **Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29**
2. Service of Word and Table: Communion liturgy found in The United Methodist Hymnal, The United Methodist Book of Worship, or other appropriate source. The consecration of the bread and cup provides the opportunity for the whole community to participate in the broken body and shed blood of Jesus.
3. Grape Juice (have enough available for those gathered in your location): Grape juice is preferable. If you do not have grape juice, use your best judgement on a replacement. The point is to participate in the body and blood of Christ.
4. Bread or Crackers (Have enough available for those gathered in your location): Use your best judgement on what to use.
5. Pastor to lead the liturgy: You, as the pastor, should take the lead. Participating online will have special meaning and benefits. Holy Communion is still a community act of worship.
6. Share your experience: After receiving communion online, please email your district office letting us know that you participated in receiving holy communion. If possible, snap a quick photo and include it with your email as well. The point in sharing is, we have not been here before. We are all learning. Sharing your experience helps all of us learn, grow, and find new ways of being in relationship as the body of Christ.