

## **Some encouragement about praying Wesley's Covenant prayer and celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion during the Coronavirus:**

**Pastors** - Once a day at 6:00 pm as we gather with loved ones for an evening meal, please join me in praying the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer. This prayer reminds us that while we are not in control, we are in God's hands regardless of our circumstances.

### ***Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition*** ***(UMH #607)***

I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now,  
O Glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen

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## **Instructions for Pastors leading online Holy 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

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.  
***'This is the Body of Christ broken for you.'***  
***'This is the blood of the New Covenant, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of your sins. Be Thankful.'***
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.