

October 25, 2020

One With Christ and One Another

Luke 22:14-20

Believers all over the world long to return to in-person faith services. As synagogues, churches, mosques, and temples remain closed, faith communities remain virtual. “Religious leaders agree that relying on technology during the pandemic was vital, although it is not a long-term solution to replace human interaction. They stress the importance of mental health and the feeling of isolation that some of their members experienced.”¹

Of particular concern to many congregations in the Christian faith is the sacrament of Communion. The student book author describes the importance of Communion: “By giving the bread and the cup, Jesus established a covenant with his disciples and, by extension, the church. This covenant binds Jesus to the church in a commitment. This covenant binds Christians to one another.”² But what do we do when we cannot be “bound” to one another in person?

Many churches have gotten creative. They’ve hosted drive-in Communion where parishioners remain in their cars. They’ve encouraged church members to create altars and take Communion at home. And some have held online Communion. Each of these methods has been controversial for different reasons. As the student book author points out, the ways and means of Communion have caused division within the church in the past and the present and will continue to do so in the future. “Leaders in the worldwide church disagree about who can serve the elements, how they should be distributed, and who can receive them.”³

Communion is an important part of our faith as Christians. It is a physical representation of our covenant with God. Taking Communion symbolizes our inclusion in our faith community, as well. It is understandable why people disagree on the details of taking Communion; but in the end, our commitment to God happens in our hearts, not inside a particular building. When we pledge ourselves to God and to one another, we create bonds that exist on Sunday in a church and throughout the rest of the week in the rest of the world.

1. Do you think taking Communion should only be done in person? Why or why not?
2. How can your church be creative about offering Communion?
3. How has the sacrament of Communion helped (or hindered) your faith journey this year?

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¹From ktvh.com/rebound/coronavirus-stress/faith-based-organizations-get-creative-to-connect-to-congregations.

²From *Adult Bible Studies*, Fall 2020, by Chuck Aaron (Cokesbury, 2020); page 77.

³From *Adult Bible Studies*; page 77.