

## Sanctuary All-Age Communion Service



This simplified communion service takes around 30 minutes and is designed to be accessible to all ages. You will need paper plates, a paper table cover, a low table on which to set the elements (or a cloth laid out on the floor) pens or pencils, bread and wine, and some paper cups or other drinking vessels for sharing the wine, and small containers of bubble mixture.

### Introductory Activity

Explain that we are exploring communion in this service. Communion is based on a meal which Jesus shared with his friends. To begin, we are going to think about the people with whom we share our meals, and say thank you to God for them.

Encourage everyone to take a paper plate and either draw a picture of the people who sit around their table at home or at school, or write the names of the people they share their meals with.

### Invitation

Allow time for everyone to finish drawing and writing, then invite them to come and sit around the table. You may use some appropriate words of invitation, for example  
'All are welcome at God's table – come and take your places together'

### Confession

This activity takes the place of the traditional prayers of confession. You will need a paper table cover on your communion table at this point.

Give everyone pens or pencils and encourage them to write or draw on the tablecloth, telling God about the things they want to say sorry for. Allow time for everyone to finish writing or drawing, then read the simple prayer below as the table cover is taken away and screwed up.

Father God, thank you that when we say sorry you forget the bad things we have done and allow us to start again with the record wiped clean.

Amen

### Telling the story (The elements are brought to the table as this text is read)

When Jesus died, something amazing happened. Death could not hold him prisoner for more than a couple of days. He was so full of love that he was too strong for death. He came back to life!

And what is even more amazing: Jesus made it possible for us to do the same thing. Because of his death, we need never be afraid of death. His death is the promise of life for all – for ever.

This is what we celebrate

This is why we share

The bread reminds us of Jesus' body, which defeated death

The wine reminds us of Jesus' blood, which promises us life

The table reminds us that we inherit this promise together, young and old: God's family on earth.

### Eucharistic Prayer (The bread is **broken** and the **cup lifted** as this prayer is read)

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus sat at the table with his friends.

He took the bread, said thank you to God, and **broke it**. He gave it to his friends, saying:

'Take, eat: this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After the meal, he **took the wine**, said thank you to God, and gave it to his friends to share, saying:

'This wine is the new promise of my blood, which is poured out for you.'

### All share bread and wine with appropriate words, for example:

The body of Christ, broken for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Dear God, we thank you  
For inviting us to your table  
For feeding us with bread and wine  
For the dangerous memory of Jesus  
Who promises life to all who love you  
Amen

We usually end with Bubble prayers – explain that as we blow the bubbles, we can say prayers to God, and the bubbles remind us that He is hearing our prayers as they float away! You can also explain that as communion is all about remembering Jesus, they can take their bubbles home to help them remember what happened in the service today.

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