

# CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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## Guidelines for Participation

**The Lord's Supper is a communion of Christians** with their risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Therefore, those participating should be believers in Christ who have publicly professed their faith in Him and have been baptized.

**As participation in the Lord's Supper is a public expression** of commitment to Christ and to fellow believers, those participating should be members of an evangelical Christian church or should be actively seeking a church home in which to express this commitment. We welcome participation from members of other evangelical churches who are visiting with us.

**Regarding our young children**, our practice is to have them participate in the Lord's Supper following their public profession of faith at an appropriate age as agreed upon by their parents and church elders. Their public professions are usually preceded by a course of instruction.

**Those among us who do not now believe in Jesus Christ** as Lord and Savior, according to the command of Christ, should not participate, but we strongly encourage a careful consideration of God's love for us in Christ as it is presented to us in the Lord's Supper.

**The Pastors and Elders urge any who have questions** or concerns to speak to us. We will be happy to discuss any aspect of these guidelines, our practice, or the Lord's Supper itself, with you.

# PRAYERS FOR THOSE NOT COMMUNING

*Because Potomac Hills is a church that is not only for convinced Christians, but also for people at different stages in their spiritual journey, we gladly extend room for you to process, think, and dialogue. Use the prayers provided below as guides to reflect upon and respond to what God is doing in your life. You are more than welcome to come to the front during Communion in order to pray with one of the Pastors and we invite you to talk with any of the Pastors or Elders after the service.*

## Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

## Prayer of Belief (trusting in Christ by faith)

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may I turn aside from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the Author and Perfector of my faith. Amen.

## Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.