



SUNDAY, JULY 5TH MORNING MESSAGE

COMMUNION SUNDAY

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TED LAND

BRADENTON, FLORIDA

Greetings in Christ Jesus!

Holy Communion/The Lord's Supper/The Eucharist is sacred and special. I've never bothered to count how many times I have celebrated the Sacrament in what is now my fiftieth year of serving Communion as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. I've never even bothered to count how many different churches I've officiated at the table. I've served communion at church camps, conference centers, even Montreat. I've served communion in hospital rooms, nursing homes, assisted living facilities. I've served countless shut-ins over the years. But never have I presided at the table in an empty sanctuary. Never have I conducted a virtual Communion service. Until now. Thus, July 5, 2020 will be special if not sacred, and I will remember.

It isn't the first time I've participated in a video communion service. We recorded one in Arcadia Oaks Assisted Living Center around fifteen years ago to be used in a video presentation but I can't remember whether that

video was shown at a Presbytery meeting, or was used as part of a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance video. Ann Graham Johnson and I celebrated the Sacrament that day. She was the Executive Director of DeSoto Disaster Recovery, which was headquartered at First Presbyterian Church of Arcadia. I was the Chairman of the Board of DDR, as well as pastor of FPC, and Ann's position was funded through PDA. How's that for alphabet soup? All these years later I've still got PDA and DDR t-shirts.

We are all shut-ins this Sunday. Our shut out from being able to assemble ourselves together around the Lord's table.

But as I said in my Maundy Thursday message, wherever we are Jesus Christ is with us. As I said the Sunday after Easter, Jesus Christ is present at every table, is present every time we break bread.

So today I will invite you to the table, I will speak the words of institution written by the Apostle Paul, I will pray a prayer of thanksgiving and consecration I will break the bread and eat of it, pour the cup and drink of it, in remembrance of Him.

But I will remember all the times I've stood at other tables, and sat in other places, and all the faces of all the ones I've served, and all the ones who have served me.

And that is a part of what we call the Communion of the Saints.

So all you saints, who believe in Jesus Christ as your savior, break a piece of bread, pour a cup to drink, and eat this bread and drink this cup in remembrance.

God bless and keep you until we are together again, even if that comes only in the kingdom of heaven which surely awaits us.

Your Transitional Pastor,
Ted Land