

Parish Holy Communion Gathering (PHCG)



PARISH HOLY COMMUNION GATHERING (PHCG)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Holy Communion (HC)?

Holy Communion (also known as the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus when He celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples on the night He was betrayed. At the Supper, Jesus took a loaf of bread, gave thanks to God, and as He broke it and gave it to His disciples, He said, "This is my Body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22:19-21). The Lord's Supper is recorded in all the Four Gospels (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:17-25; Luke 22:7-22; John 13:21-30).

What is the significance of Holy Communion?

In our Methodist understanding, Holy Communion (HC) is a means of grace and also an integral part of Christian worship. It causes us to remember our Lord's death and resurrection and to look for His glorious return in the future – "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26). We believe Jesus is present with us as we partake HC together, and so we do it with utmost reverence.

What is Faith's Parish Holy Communion Gathering (PHCG)?

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, worship services have been restricted in terms of in-person attendance. As a result, it has been more than a year since our worshippers have not taken Holy Communion together. Hence, we are making this arrangement to enable as many of us as possible to celebrate HC together:

SCHEDULE:

❖ **1st Sunday of the month: Consecration of Elements at HC Service**

The Holy Communion Worship Service will be held at Faith Methodist Church where the communion elements will be consecrated by the Pastors and partaken by those present onsite.

❖ **The week following the Sunday HC Service: Collection of HC Elements**

The consecrated Holy Communion elements will be made available for collection at the Church office as follows:

- **Mondays to Fridays : 10.00 am to 4.00 pm; and 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm**
- **Saturdays: 10.00 am to 12.00 noon**

❖ **The week following the collection of HC Elements: Partaking together of the Holy Communion during PHCG**

Gather on Zoom with your respective Parish-Pillar and partake Holy Communion together at the assigned PHCG meetings scheduled from Monday to Friday. Please refer to page 3 for the detailed schedule.

The Parish Holy Communion Gathering is an **extension** of the table of the Holy Communion Worship Service and will be conducted online via Zoom where we can interact with one another. We will regularly review the necessity of PHCG until Singapore reaches a post-COVID "new normal".

Who can partake of the Holy Communion?

Holy Communion is a sacrament and part of Christian corporate worship and is open to all who believe in Jesus as their Lord.

Can I partake of the Holy Communion elements on my own?

We believe Holy Communion (HC) is an institution Jesus wants us to take corporately to remember that we are one body in Christ. Paul had even admonished some Corinthian Christians for taking communion on their own (1 Corinthians 11.20-22). We believe taking the sacrament together signifies the oneness of the body of Christ in oneness with Christ the head. Hence taking it on our own defeats the purpose of HC.

Why don't we do Holy Communion together at the Sunday Service livestream?

This is being practiced by other churches, but we (as a church of Small Groups) have chosen to partake Holy Communion via Zoom, where we can see and interact with each other during Holy Communion.

What is "One Loaf and One Cup"?

Breaking bread from one loaf and drinking from one cup symbolizes unity of one body (we as a church, as well as the church with the Lord) – "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10.17).

In our Methodist tradition, we "re-enact" the Lord's Supper at our Holy Communion Worship Services by having an Elder (an ordained Methodist clergy) preside or 'host' the Holy Communion in the presence of the worshippers. The elements at the table represent the one loaf and one cup, which we will partake from the table together. For those who are not present onsite, the table is "extended" to them on the second week during the PHCG where we will partake the elements together from the same table.

Can I collect the elements for the following month?

No, this is because the Parish Holy Communion Gathering (PHCG) is an "extension" of the table which we celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of that month. Hence the elements collected for the PHCG is meant for that month itself.

What Holy Communion elements does Faith use?

In Faith Methodist Church, in view of personal hygiene, we do not physically break from one loaf of bread nor drink from one cup. Instead, we are using a two-in-one packet consisting of a biscuit and some juice.

What do the biscuit (bread) and juice (wine) signify?

The biscuit (bread) signifies the body of Christ, broken for us. As we take it, we remember how Jesus has humbled Himself and bids us to follow His example.

The juice (wine) signifies the blood of Christ, poured out for us for the forgiveness of sins so that we can be reconciled to the Father. It is also the blood that seals the New Covenant with God that we are His children and He, our Lord.

Instructions

1. Please consider the elements with care as they have been consecrated by the Pastors.
2. Keep the elements in the refrigerator and take it out at least 15 minutes before the PHCG starts at 8pm.
3. Gather the people who will be participating in the Holy Communion ritual at least five (5) minutes before the time, and be comfortable within the view of the screen.
4. Place the elements in the center of the gathering within sight of everyone as a symbolic gesture to remind all who are present of the purpose of this Holy Communion ritual.
5. Follow the direction of the Pastor during the Holy Communion ritual and distribute to each member at the instruction of the Pastor.
6. Should there be an additional member present, please break the biscuit into two and share half the cup of grape juice. If there are additional elements, please consume them altogether.
7. Please attend the PHCG in accordance to the Pillar Parish that you are assigned

PHCG Zoom Link: <https://faithmc.sg/phcg>

MONTHLY SCHEDULE OF PARISH HOLY COMMUNION GATHERING	
1st Sunday of the Month	CONSECRATION of Holy Communion elements
Monday to Saturday after 1st Sunday	COLLECTION of Holy Communion elements in church office Level 5
The week following Collection of HC elements	PHCG on Zoom (faithmc.sg/phcg)
Time to Gather	8pm to 8.30pm

PARISH HOLY COMMUNION GATHERINGS FOR OCTOBER 2021		
DAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
DATE	13	15
TIME	8.00 PM TO 8.30 PM	