

## A Frequent Expression of Love

By Pastor Grant Van Leuven | adapted from reformation21.org

What if you told your wife you only planned to take her on a dinner date once a year during your anniversary so as to make the expression of your marriage relationship extra special? And for that matter, you would also plan to have all other meals separately until that time, so as to enhance the enjoyment of your annual reunion across the dining establishment table of her choice? She would probably ask for marriage counseling to protect against the unnecessary straining of your relationship by an unreasonably forced lack of regular, deliberate, and intimate fellowship. Nor would she likely be consoled by your negotiating a compromise of quarterly or monthly meals together.

Instead, our heavenly Husband has given His bride the church a way to grow fonder with Him by the bond of familiarity through the constant communion and remembrance of Him and His covenantally secure relationship with us. Just as wives need constant expressions of loving commitment from their husbands, so does Christ's Bride need her Lord's frequent communion.

Things that are extra special should be given extra attention. Especially things that are vital for our spiritual survival. Why do we eat and drink daily? It keeps us alive. The Lord's design is to give us a regularly scheduled spiritual dinner date to satisfy our hunger and thirst after His righteousness—and to develop a taste and appetite to constantly see that He is good while steering us away from the world's cisterns to quench our desire for fellowship.

The *Westminster Directory for the Publick Worship of God* instructs that, at least normally, "The Communion, or Supper of the Lord, is frequently to be celebrated ..." Similarly, the *Westminster Larger Catechism* (WLC) Q&A 175 teaches that it is the Christian's duty after having received the Lord's Supper to so self-assess their participation as to "encourage themselves to a frequent attendance of that ordinance." And the WLC Q&A 177 states, in contrast to baptism, that the Lord's Supper is to be "administered often" (see Acts 2:42, 46f). Community activity in the covenant context of corporate worship involved communion as frequently as it did its other ordinary elements and means of grace.

Christ calls us to partake of the Lord's Supper to remember Him and what He did for us and who we are and what we have in Him. What Christian can get enough of that? What child of God does not want to keep going back to the table for more?

We so easily forget our Lord without a frequent reminder of Him and his benefits to all our senses, without which we also are so prone to wander and forsake Him. I remember one young husband and father say to our Session that he was thankful for weekly communion here, because (besides the exegesis of Scripture) it controlled his Christian walk the entire week as he anticipated returning to formal, familiar, and fond fellowship across the table from his living Lord and Savior Who Himself is hosting the affair.

Indeed, the anticipation of such consistent times of fellowship should garner the same excitement and personal preparation that any wife enjoys as she readies for a dinner date with her husband. May the Bride of Christ not suffer spiritual malnutrition by being starved of fellowship with her holy and faithful Husband for the want of frequent, spiritually nourishing meals with and of Him.

## Announcements

- Prayer Meeting this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- To volunteer to help clean the church property, please contact the church at [info@antiochpca.com](mailto:info@antiochpca.com).

## Vision

**Our vision** is to see the historic Antioch Presbyterian Church revitalized as a worshipping community to be a blessing to every man, woman, and child in the growing residential hub west of Woodruff and south of Reidville, to the glory of God.

## Mission

**Our mission** as a parish church at the crossroads of Greenville and Spartanburg Counties is the gathering and perfecting of God's people through biblical worship, evangelism, and pastoral care.

## Areas of Ministry Focus

*Expository Preaching*

*Biblical Worship*

*Parish Evangelism*

*Pastoral Care*

*Discipleship*

## Leadership & Accountability

As a *mission work*, Antioch Presbyterian Church (PCA) is governed and overseen by a *provisional session* of elders serving as a *commission* of Calvary Presbytery. The six men appointed to the *provisional session* are active elders within the bounds of Calvary Presbytery, and they have graciously agreed to serve "above-and-beyond" to encourage the revitalization of Antioch. They include:

Dr. Chipley Bennett, Ph.D. – Ruling Elder, Providence Presbyterian Church

Dr. E. Todd Buchner, D.Min. – Pastor, Reidville Presbyterian Church

Mr. Richard Hollifield – Ruling Elder, Roebuck Presbyterian Church

Mr. William Johnson – Ruling Elder, Woodruff Road Presbyterian Church

Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr., Ph.D., D.D. – Professor of Systematic & Applied Theology, President Emeritus, Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary;

Organizing Pastor & Moderator of Session, Antioch Presbyterian Church

Pastor Richard Thomas – Senior Pastor, Mount Calvary Presbyterian Church;

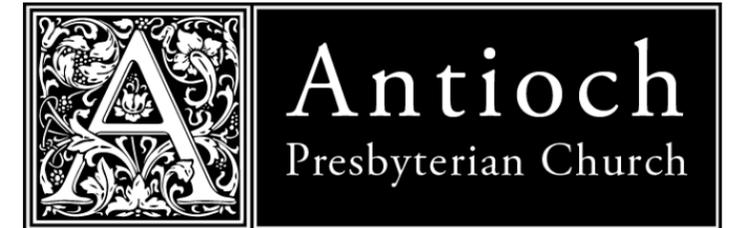
Clerk of Session, Antioch Presbyterian Church

## Church Staff

Mr. Zachary Groff – Ministerial Assistant

Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr. – Organizing Pastor & Moderator of Session

Mr. Johann Xie – Pastoral Intern



The Lord's Day

April 4, 2021

"The Mature Minister (Part II)"

1 Timothy 4:14-16

Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr.

Worship – Sunday, 5:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

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# The Lord's Day

April 4, 2021

## Meditation

*Psalm 89:1, 2*

*I will sing of the lovingkindness of the LORD forever; to all generations I will make known Your faithfulness with my mouth. For I have said, "Lovingkindness will be built up forever; in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness."*

## \*Call to Worship

## \*Congregational Commitment

**Minister:** Congregation, in whom is your confidence?

Congregation: Our help is in the Name of the Lord, Who made the heavens and the earth.

## \*Salutation

## \*Hymn of Adoration

**No. 48B**

*The LORD is Great and Greatly Praised*  
FOREST GREEN

## \*Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

## \*Revelation of God's Will

*Exodus 20:1-17*

## \*Confession of Sin & Supplication for Grace

Almighty God, Creator of the heavens and the earth, Redeemer of Your people, we bow in humble confession of our sins because You have promised to forgive us on the merits of Christ, Your only Son, the Lamb of God who covers our iniquities. You alone know how often we have offended You and injured others. Forgive us, O Lord, for every irreverent thought, for every untrue word, for every unkind act, for our neglect of prayer, for every selfish use of money, and for forgetfulness of our sacred vows. O God, have mercy upon us and heal us, and enable us by Your Holy Spirit to walk after the example of Christ, our Lord and King. Amen.

## \*Assurance of Pardon

*Isaiah 55:6, 7*

*<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*

## Offering

**No. 103C**

*Come, My Soul, and Bless the LORD*  
KEESEEE

## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving & Supplication

*Lord's Prayer*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Hymn of Preparation

**No. 119V**

*LORD, Let My Cry before You Come*  
FEDERAL STREET

## \*Prayer for Illumination

## \*Old Testament Reading

*Jeremiah 1:1-10*

## \*New Testament Reading

*Ephesians 4:1-13*

## \*Congregational Response

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord,

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

## Sermon

"The Mature Minister (Part II)"

*1 Timothy 3:14, 15*

## Prayer of Application

## \*Hymn of Approach

**No. 197**

*Come, Take by Faith the Body of the Lord*  
LANGRAN

## Confession of Faith

*Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary;  
suffered under Pontius Pilate;  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell;  
the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic<sup>†</sup> church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Communion

## \*Hymn of Response

**No. 198**

*Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured*  
JESU, MEINE ZUVERSICHT

## \*Benediction

## \*Doxology

**No. 567**

*Doxology*  
OLD HUNDREDTH

## \*Silent Prayer

"The Mature Minister (Part II)"

*1 Timothy 3:14, 15*

## Main Proposition

All who receive divine office are to pay close attention to themselves and the cultivation of their gifts.

## Outline

I. The Mature Minister Must Cultivate His Gifts (vv. 14, 15)

II. The Mature Minister Must Guard His Life (v. 16)

\* Congregation standing, unless physically hindered

<sup>†</sup> "Catholic" means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples (see WCF 25.2).