

## 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*

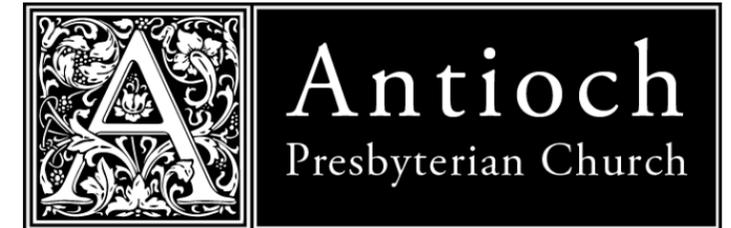
## Leadership & Accountability

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. Tosh Groce – Ruling Elder, Blue Ridge 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  
May 2, 2021

"Christian Endurance"

*Hebrews 12:1-3*

Mr. Zachary Groff

Worship – Sunday, 5:00 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

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# The Lord's Day

May 2, 2021

## Meditation

John 3:16-18

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. <sup>18</sup> He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

## \*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. 210

*O God, We Praise Thee*  
DUNDEE

## \*Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

## \*Revelation of God's Will

Exodus 20:1-17

## \*Confession of Sin & Supplication for Grace

Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before You our sinful nature, prone to evil and slothful in good, and all our shortcomings and offenses against You. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from Your ways, in wasting Your gifts, and in forgetting Your love. O Lord, have mercy on us, who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased You. Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins for the sake of Your dear Son. O most holy and loving Father, send Your purifying grace into our hearts, we beseech You, that we may henceforth live in Your light and walk in Your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose Name we pray, Amen.

## \*Assurance of Pardon

Titus 3:5-7

<sup>5</sup> He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## 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. 469

*Who Are These Like Stars Appearing*  
ALL SAINTS OLD

## \*Prayer for Illumination

## \*Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 66:1-24

## \*New Testament Reading

Hebrews 12:1-3

## \*Congregational Response

**Leader: Faith comes by hearing,**

**Congregation: And hearing by the Word of God!**

## Sermon

"Christian Endurance"  
Hebrews 12:1-3

## Prayer of Application

## \*Hymn of Approach

No. 50

*The Mighty One, Our God*  
(stanzas 1-4)  
LEICESTER

## Confession of Faith

*The Nicene Creed (TPH 852)*

## Communion

## \*Hymn of Response

No. 50

*The Mighty One, Our God*  
(stanzas 5-8)  
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## \*Benediction

## \*Doxology

No. 567

*Doxology*  
OLD HUNDREDTH

## \*Silent Prayer

## "Christian Endurance"

Hebrews 12:1-3

## Main Proposition

Christian endurance operates through faith in Christ who endured the great hostility of sinners, leading to His death on the cross.

## Outline

I. The Testimony of Faith in Christ (v. 1)

II. The Power of Faith in Christ (v. 2)

III. The Fruit of Faith in Christ (v. 3)

\* Congregation standing, unless physically hindered