

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. PII

Announcements

- Prayer Meeting this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- Morning worship services begin next week at 9:30 a.m.

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

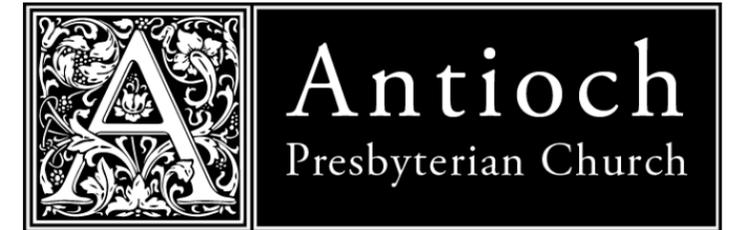
Leadership & Accountability

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. W. 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

June 6, 2021

"The Glory of True Christianity"

Revelation 3:14-22

Mr. Zachary Groff

Morning Worship – Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Evening Worship – Sunday, 5:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

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Meditation

Proverbs 8:22, 23, 35, 36

²² The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. ²³ From everlasting I was established, from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.... ³⁵ For he who finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD. ³⁶ But he who sins against me injures himself; all those who hate me love death.

*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. 379

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
MADRID

*Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

*Revelation of God's Will

James 3:13-18

*Confession of Sin & Supplication for Grace

Our God in heaven, if You should mark iniquities, who could stand? We know that if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. None of us do good, no, not one. We have stiffened our necks against Your will, hardened our hearts to Your Word, refused to hear Your voice, pulled away from Your loving embrace, despised correction, and forgotten You in our thoughts. Yes, we have sinned against You. Father, we repent. We come to Christ, who has promised that in Him we shall find rest for our souls. We take His yoke upon us. We desire to learn from You. Grant that we may bring forth the fruits of repentance from sincere hearts, which are precious in Your sight. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Offering

No. 107A

O Thank the LORD, for He Is Good
(stanzas 11-13)
GOSHEN

*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. 119E

Teach Me, O LORD, Your Way of Truth
BISHOP

*Prayer for Illumination

*Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55

*New Testament Reading

Revelation 3:14-22

*Congregational Response

Leader: Faith comes by hearing,

Congregation: And hearing by the Word of God!

Sermon

"The Glory of True Christianity"

Revelation 3:14-22

*Prayer of Application

Hymn of Approach

No. 439

Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy
ARISE

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed (TPH 851)

Communion

*Hymn of Response

No. 378

Look, Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious
CORONAE

*Benediction

*Doxology

No. 572

Gloria Patri
GLORIA PATRI (Creatorex)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen, amen.

*Silent Prayer

* Congregation standing, unless physically hindered

Main Proposition

While God in Christ condemns lukewarm Christianity, He loves to save lukewarm Christians.

Outline

- I. Christ the Judge of Lukewarm Christianity (v. 14)
- II. Christ's Counsel to Lukewarm Christians (vv. 15-20)
- III. Christ's Glorious Grace for Repentant Christians (vv. 21, 22)