

Devotion, Week of July 2, 2023
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

Thanks to Fred, Jim Phillips, Connie and others who prepared our picnic on Sunday and all who brought the wonderful food. I am reminded when we sit and eat together that Jesus thrived on having fellowship at the table. He just, quite frankly, loved to eat! And when he ate, he often taught those around him or showed by his actions, like eating with the tax collector, that sharing the table should be open for all.

We could remember Jesus in other ways besides sharing the cup and bread, but it means a lot to me that we remember Jesus in a form of table fellowship, just as he did when he first said those words to his disciples while giving them bread and wine. We eat the bread and drink the cup knowing that we are remembering Jesus' body and blood, sacrificed for us. We eat the bread and drink the cup knowing that Jesus wanted this sacrament of sharing to be available to all who believe in him. We eat the bread and drink the cup because we are thankful that Jesus redeemed us from our sin and saved us to follow the path he showed us – to care for each other, to make sure that all have enough, to work for justice for all peoples, and to honor the God who sent his Son down to save us.

As I sit at various tables with friends and family, I am reminded that Jesus wants us to share what we have and to enjoy not only the food that God provides for his beloved people, but the times of fellowship when we can share our stories and be thankful for the blessings God has given to us. I hope this week as we celebrate the Lord's Supper that you will think of table fellowship as we spend this sacred time with each other.

Jeanne