

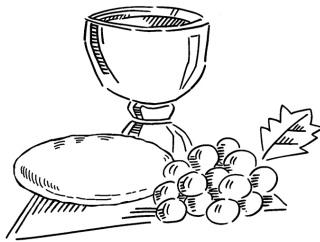
Christ Be My Leader

By Timothy Dudley-Smith

Old Orchard Church

— August 7, 2011 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

See print copy for text.



We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Caller of Disciples

“Where he leads, I will follow.”

So says every true disciple of a master who is good.

God is Creator, we the creatures;

God is Lord, we the servants;

Christ is Master, we the disciples.

Praise the Lord in the highest!

For he who made us has not abandoned us,

But instead comes to teach, to shape, and to lead us.

Blessed be the Name of the One who takes us up
Into his grand work of restoring good to the world!

Worship the One who calls us

To walk the same path of rejection he walked.

Adore him, for he, the high Master

Who could have kept us but servants,

Became for us a Friend who sticks closer than a brother!

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Joshua 24:14-18

Gospel Readings: Mark 8:31-38

Sermon

“The Servant of the Lord”

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Russ Tamm, Seminary Intern, preaching

Master and Disciple

God is a God who *bears*. The Son of God bore our flesh, he bore the cross, he bore our sins, thus making atonement for us. In the same way his followers are also called upon to bear, and that is precisely what it means to be a Christian. Just as Christ maintained his communion with the Father by his endurance, so his followers are to maintain their communion with Christ by their endurance. We can of course shake off the burden which is laid upon us, but only find that we have a still heavier burden to carry—a yoke of our own choosing, the yoke of our self. But Jesus invites—all who travail and are heavy laden to throw off their own yoke and take his yoke upon them—and his yoke is easy, and his burden is light. The yoke and the burden of Christ are his cross. To go one’s way under the sign of the cross is not misery and desperation, but peace and refreshment for the soul, it is the highest joy. Then we do not walk under our self-made laws and burdens, but under the yoke of him who knows us and who walks under the yoke with us. Under his yoke we are certain of his nearness and communion. It is he whom the disciple finds as he lifts up his cross. As Martin Luther [has God] put it:

Discipleship is not limited to what you can comprehend—it must transcend all comprehension. Plunge into the deep waters beyond your own comprehension, and I will help you to comprehend even as I do. Bewilderment is the true comprehension. Not to know where you are going is the true knowledge. My comprehension transcends yours. Thus Abraham went forth from his father, and not knowing where he went. He trusted himself to my knowledge, and cared not for his own, and thus he took the right road and came to his journey’s end. Behold, that is the way of the cross. You cannot find it yourself, so you must let me lead you as though you were a blind man. Wherefore it is not you, no man, no living creature, but I myself, who instruct you by my Word and Spirit in the way you should go. Not the work which you choose, not the suffering you devise, but the road which is clean contrary to all that you choose or contrive or desire—that is the road you must take. To that I call you and in that you must be my disciple. If you do that, there is the acceptable time and there your master is come.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer in The Cost of Discipleship (1937)