

A CONTEMPORARY NEW THOUGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

By Stan Ousley Jr

Facilitator: As we gather now to celebrate Communion, we reflect on the following passage from the Divine Science textbook:

"We should receive all that we eat or drink as the Divine Body...

To receive every visible thing as the Sacred Body is to receive Communion."

"The true worshipers shall worship in spirit and in truth.

We receive our communion in Spirit, but as long as the visible elements are an aid to one's thought, let him continue their use. Visible aids are but temporary supports to the workmen that are 'building the temple' as the scaffolding is to the house. When that which is perfect is come, that which was in part shall be done away."

Let us take a moment to reflect upon our unity with the Holy Spirit and reharmonize our thoughts and attitudes, as we contemplate these words from Psalm 139:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me, and know my thoughts.

Point out anything in me that offends you,

And lead me along the path of everlasting life."

(From Holy Bible: New Living Translation,

Tyndale House Publishers, 1996)

[A moment of silence follows]

Facilitator: As we prepare for Communion, we focus upon these passages from Psalm 139:

"O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.

You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my every thought when far away.

You chart the path ahead of me and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment You know where I am.

You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord.

You both precede and follow me. You place Your hand of Blessing upon my head...

I can never escape from your spirit! I can never get away from your Presence...!

Thank You for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous – and how

well I know it."

Facilitator: A reading from the Divine Science Textbook:

"We `drink His blood' as we receive the true consciousness of life and we `eat His flesh' when we know the whole body to be the Divine `Word ... made flesh.' Communion is realization of the Omnipresence."

As we partake in the Communion, you are invited to come forward and receive the unleavened matzo, symbolizing the solid body of Creation, and the grape juice, symbolizing the Spiritual essence that enlivens and permeates the visible forms of life.

(In the Communion, unleavened bread such as matzo and Kosher grape juice are used. It is suggested that the communicants will receive the matzo dipped in wine, symbolizing the impregnation of Substance by the Divine Light and Consciousness. This is the method of intinction .

[Communicants come forward to receive the matzo and grape juice].

[A few moments of silent meditation follows].

Closing affirmative prayer (may be read in unison):

Because Spirit is Omnipresent, I am unified with Its perfect nature; I express Its perfect character; I feel Its perfect Love; and I partake in Its perfect harmony.

I now realize my at-onement and repent of all thoughts of separation. In this moment, I am resurrected in consciousness and I am healed as I realize that wholeness and harmony are the nature of the Heaven within me. I fully partake in the attributes of wisdom, love, knowledge, understanding, power, life, and joy.

I am thankful for this awareness of the eternal Communion of Creator and Creative Action And Creation as Mind, Idea, and Expression.

And so it is!

Facilitator: And now, we go forth knowing the Peace that passes all understanding, to express the Love that is Spirit and Truth.