



They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

A SIMPLECHURCH LITURGY & CANDLE LIGHTING

A leader/facilitator should be appointed each week ahead to facilitate the gathering.

Remember, there's nothing dramatic or deep required. You are God's people, gathering together to practice these rhythms that are important for your life. God will be with you. He will use these things. Fruit will be produced in your lives.

1. Check-in

As you gather, a time to check-in and see how each other are doing is a good way to begin.

2. Candle Lighting

Someone can light the candle to remind each other that Jesus is present!

3. Song

Music in this setting can be a little awkward, but if a song is on someones heart to meditate to, or if the leader chooses one ahead - great!

4. Scripture Reading - Ephesians 1:15-23

This week, the Liturgical Calendar celebrates the "Reign of Christ." This focus happens yearly before Advent begins as the Church turns its attention away from "ordinary time" toward the coming of Jesus into the world!

For our reading this week, the first 3:00mins of the Bible Project video on Ephesians set's the stage wonderfully... and I would strongly encourage you to watch these three minutes before reading.

<https://youtu.be/Y71r-T98E2Q>

In our reading, Paul is praying for the church of Ephesus where he says: "And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church." This is the reign of Christ!

Read slowly... soak in these wonderful words. Read it as a prayer, which it is:

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit[f] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority,

power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Brief discussion... use these simple questions to guide your conversation:

What stood out to you? What is God saying to you/us in this scripture?

How does this message still apply to the church today?

What does the reign of Christ mean to you as a believer?

5. Prayers

Pray for each other, your city and world. Keep track of your prayers from week to week in a book and review each week as you pray.

6. Lord's Supper*

This can be optional for you, but if you would like to have the meal together - go for it! We will continue to have the meal on our other "on-line" weekends.

+ *Scripture - 1 Cor 11:23-26*

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

+ *Blessing and Breaking*

Something simple. Break the bread and offer a simple blessing. "Jesus, thank you for this meal. Bless it now that we may see you."

+ *Eat* - If you know you are a sinner and need Jesus. Eat.

7. Blow out the Candle

Ask one of the children to do this.