

The most recent FULP-Filey's confirmation group met over pizza and soda to review faith and discuss Holy Communion. We recalled that the exodus is the primary *Hebrew* Bible event and Jesus' death and resurrection are the primary *New Testament* events. We found it curious that in the last supper Jesus links his own death to the Hebrews' Exodus from Egypt through the Jews' annual exodus recalling Passover Seder meal. The Seder meal continues to be the essential faith experience for Jews even as Holy Communion is an essential one for Christians.

According to the ancient story, a lamb was sacrificed so that the eldest in each family might be spared as the death angel took the life of each eldest child throughout the land. In the last supper Jesus lifts the matzo bread and cup of wine and suggests that these are now his body and blood. He is the new lamb, who allows himself to be sacrificed to show those who observe his death that love and mercy are stronger than a crushing tradition, hatred, hierarchy, racism, sexism, and the ancient battle for resources which leaves a few with, and most without (sin). As Jesus lifts the bread and cup, he proclaims that he and his followers will live and die for the forgotten, the lost, the ignored, the despised, the hated.

Pastor Debbie recalled that when we partake the bread and cup, we are joined with Christ and all of Jesus' followers throughout the world and throughout time--past and future. Holy Communion is the ritual which reminds us that God has drawn us together as one. While baptism welcomes us as children of God into this community of faith, this Body of Christ, Communion, week by week, pulls us together as one.

We are One as God is One. Communion and Baptism are the strong signs which keep this Gift ever before us. We gather on Sunday morning to be reminded of these eternal, non-negotiable realities, the Gift of God for all. These Sacraments are simply our way of naming the gift and reality of deep belonging and oneness.

Let us continue to faithfully live out our call to compassion and unity in the Body of Christ and with all of creation.

Roy Stetler