

**dcrau002498001.wav / James T. Cleland - "On Being Joyous at Communion" Communion Meditation
(February 8, 1970) / Duke Digital Repository**

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(choir singing brightly)

- "Jesus said, 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him, and he with me. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.'" The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians, "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the same loaf. Beloved, let us love one another for love is of God. And he who loves is born of God and knows God. In this, the love of God was made manifest among us that God sent his only son into the world so that we might live through him. What no eye has seen or ear heard nor the heart of man conceived what God has prepared for those who love him, God has revealed to us through the spirit for the spirit searches everything, even the depths of God." The Lord be with you.

- And with your spirit.

- Let us pray our unison prayer for purity. Almighty God under whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit. That we may perfectly love thee and worthily magnify thy holy name through Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever. Amen. (gentle pipe organ music) ♪ Glory be to God on high ♪ ♪ And on earth peace, good will toward men ♪ ♪ We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee ♪ ♪ We glorify Thee ♪ ♪ We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory ♪ ♪ O Lord God, heavenly King ♪ ♪ God the Father Almighty ♪ ♪ O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ ♪ ♪ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father ♪ ♪ That takest away the sins of the world ♪ ♪ Have mercy upon us ♪ ♪ Thou that takest away the sins of the world ♪ ♪ Receive our prayer ♪ ♪ Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father ♪ ♪ Have mercy upon us ♪ ♪ For Thou only art holy ♪ ♪ Thou only art the Lord ♪ ♪ Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost ♪ ♪ Art the most high in the glory of God the Father ♪ ♪ Amen. ♪

- Do truly and earnestly repent of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbors and intend to

lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking from henceforth in his holy ways. Draw near with faith and take this holy sacrament to your comfort and make your humble confession to Almighty God. And now out with utmost sincerity, may we unite our hearts and our voices in praying the Prayer of General Confession. Let us pray. Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against thy Divine Majesty. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. The remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father. For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life to the honor and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Almighty God, our heavenly Father who of thy great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn to thee, have mercy upon us. Pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Hear what comfortable words the scriptures say to all that truly turn to the Lord. "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." "God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life." The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. And he is the expiation for our sins. Not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. Now let us pray for the whole state of Christ church using the litany which follows. Most merciful Father, we humbly beseech thee to receive these our prayers for the universal church. That thou will confirm it in the truth of thy holy faith. Inspire it with unity and concord and extend and prosper it throughout the world. We beseech thee also so to guide and strengthen the witness of the church, to those in authority in all nations that they may maintain the justice and welfare of all mankind.

- Hear us, we beseech thee, O Lord.

- Give grace, O heavenly Father to all ministers of thy church, that both by their life and doctrine they may set forth thy true and lively word and faithfully administer thy holy sacrament. And to all thy people, give thy heavenly grace. That with willing heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy Holy Word. Truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their lives.

- Hear us, we beseech thee, O Lord.

- And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to support and strengthen all those who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

- Hear us, we beseech thee, O Lord.

- We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served thee in thy Church on earth who now rest from their labors, especially those most dear to us, whom we name in our hearts before thee. Keep us in fellowship with all thy saints, and bring us at length to the joy of thy heavenly kingdom.

- Grant this, O Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only mediator and advocate.

- Amen. It is necessary for me to make one announcement. On the top of page four of your bulletin, there is an important announcement about Ash Wednesday and a series of services to be conducted under the auspices of the University Christian Movement and the Newman Club. There is one change in that announcement, and it is the time at which the Ash Wednesday service will be held. Instead of it being as printed at five o'clock PM, it will be held at 10:30 PM. Kindly make that note.

- Let us hear the word of God as it is contained in the first epistle of Paul to the Corinthians, the 11th chapter, verses 17 to 26, reading from the Moffatt Translation. "But in giving you the following injunction I cannot commend you; for you are the worse, not the better for assembling together. First of all, in your church-meetings, I am told that cliques prevail. And I partly believe it. There must be parties among you if genuine Christians are to be recognized. But this makes it impossible for you to eat the Lord's Supper when you hold your gathering. As you eat, everyone takes his own supper; one goes hungry while another gets drunk. What! have you no houses to eat and drink in? Do you think you can show disrespect to the church of God and put the poor to shame? What can I say to you? Commend you? Not for this. I passed on to you what I received from the Lord himself, namely, on the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took a loaf, and after thanking God, he broke it, saying, 'This means my body broken for you. Do this in memory of me.' In the same way, he took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup means the new covenant ratified by my blood. As often as you drink it, do it in memory of me.' For as often as you eat this loaf and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." May God bless to us this reading of his Word. When Paul dictated this passage, we was probably in a howling bad temper, and with good reason. Let us pass a speedy eye over the situation in that first century Grecian town. If you want to read about a pastor with problems, then sit down and read right through 1st Corinthians at one sitting. Paul had founded a church in Corinth, about 50 miles due west of Athens. And to give you the flavor of this Seaport town, hear this ancient proverb about it. "It is not given to everyone to visit Corinth. It is not given to everyone to visit Corinth." That was originally a Mediterranean ship master's sigh of envy or of satisfaction. Corinth was like port Said today. Or was it yesterday? Corinth was a spontaneously wicked city which majored in wantonness and minored in spectator sports. And there Paul preached the gospel of the grace of God who redeems men from the kind of things which the Corinthian Chamber of Commerce promoted. But inevitably as the church settled down in Corinth, so Corinth settled down in the church. And as was read in the lesson, some folk had a celebration of the Lord's Supper, actually became drunk while others had nothing to eat or drink at all. In its inception, the Lord's Supper was probably a common meal, a love feast, a church supper. And in Corinth, it was evidently cafeteria service, where everyone did not sit down and eat at the same time. Those who came late were not only unfed, they had to look at the early comers hilariously intoxicated. Now, Paul's reaction was first of all to scold. He did. His later and lasting reaction was to overemphasize one aspect of the supper. He overstressed that it was a remembrance of the last meal which Jesus ate with the 12 before he went out to suffer and to die on their behalf. Thus, the Lord's Supper is a proclamation of the Lord's death. Is that a cause for hilarious drunkenness? Sober up, settle down, behave yourselves. Now Paul understandably was reacting to a situation, but he was overreacting. And his emphasis on the death of Jesus, on the Lord's Supper as a repeated memorial of his death has darkened the holy communion for generations of church

members certainly in Scottish Presbyterianism. The lay elders who sit with the minister around the holy table are dressed in sober black. Sober, that's an appropriate adjective. The hymns are sung at an even slower tempo than usual like a dirge or a coronach. A lament for the dead. The church was bathed in gloom. The adjective which characterized the service of holy communion in my boyhood, Scotland was somber. S-O-M-B-E-R. And you know how Webster defines somber? So shaded or full of shadows. Has to be dark and gloomy, without light or brightness. And three analogous words are appended to assist in the elucidation of somber: melancholy, grave, depressing. For many of my 25 years here at Duke, this has been the keynote of the Lord's Supper in the chapel. The one anthem which was sung for years was Bach's "Crucifixus." Crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, dead, buried. The spiritual atmosphere was one of unmitigated, unrelieved somberness. Now, there's a time and a place for that anthem, at the service on Monday, Thursday. That is on the night before Good Friday. Then it's wise to ponder what the ordinary goodness of a noble religion like Judaism and of a worthy empire like Rome did to the extraordinary goodness of a man like Jesus. It's also salutary though frightening to think of a world with no Easter message. But there's a joyous aspect to the Lord's Supper which is caught in such a word as Eucharist, Thanksgiving. Not for what Jesus the Christ did, but for what he is to us today, for what he'll mean to us tomorrow. For some early Christians, the common meal, the the communion was an anticipation, a foretaste of the messianic banquet at the table of the Lord in heaven. They look forward enough as well as backward in somberness. They rejoiced as well as mourned. They anticipated as well as remembered. And that is an emphasis to be recaptured and cherished and celebrated. And so, it was decided that today's service should be one of gratitude and joy. If Paul's Corinthians were wrong in becoming drunk at the uncommon common meal, it may have been in some instances the vice of a virtue, the expression of expectation, the appreciation of companionship in the fellowship of the church. And therefore, we chose as the hymn of preparation, one which reveals this joy and this anticipation, Hymn 318. Now, instead of a prayer after this meditation, let us remain seated and in unison read the first stanza. And then let us listen to the organist playing the tune, "German Chorale." And then let us rise and sing the whole hymn. Now, the first stanza. ♪ Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness ♪ ♪ Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness ♪ ♪ Come into the daylight's splendor ♪ ♪ There with joy thy praises render ♪ ♪ Unto him whose grace unbounded ♪ ♪ Hath this wondrous banquet founded ♪ ♪ High o'er all the heavens he reigneth ♪ ♪ Yet to dwell with thee he deigneth ♪ So let it be. (soft pipe organ music) ♪ Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness ♪ ♪ Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness ♪ ♪ Come into the daylight's splendor ♪ ♪ There with joy thy praises render ♪ ♪ Unto him whose grace unbounded ♪ ♪ Hath this wondrous banquet founded ♪ ♪ High o'er all the heavens he reigneth ♪ ♪ Yet to dwell with thee he deigneth ♪ Sun, who all my life dost brighten ♪ ♪ Light, who dost my soul enlighten ♪ ♪ Joy, the sweetest heart e'er knoweth ♪ ♪ Fount, whence all my being floweth ♪ ♪ At thy feet I cry, my Maker ♪ ♪ Let me be a fit partaker ♪ Of this blessed food from heaven ♪ ♪ For our good, thy glory, given ♪ ♪ Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray thee ♪ ♪ Let me gladly here obey thee ♪ ♪ Never to my hurt invited ♪ ♪ Be thy love with love requited ♪ ♪ From this banquet let me measure ♪ ♪ Lord, how vast and deep its treasure ♪ ♪ Through the gifts thou here dost give me ♪ ♪ As thy guest in heaven receive me ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ (soft pipe organ music) (gentle pipe organ music) (gentle pipe organ music)

(choir singing faintly) (gentle pipe organ music) (gentle pipe organ music)

(choir singing brightly) (gentle pipe organ music) ♪ I walk by Jesus ♪ (gentle pipe organ music)

(choir singing brightly) ♪ Me upon the ♪ (gentle pipe organ music)

(choir singing brightly) ♪ Jesus ♪ (gentle pipe organ music)

(choir singing brightly) ♪ Upon the cross ♪ (gentle pipe organ music)
(choir singing brightly) ♪ Jesus ♪ (gentle pipe organ music)
(choir singing brightly) ♪ Upon the cross ♪ (gentle pipe organ music)
(choir singing faintly) (soft pipe organ music) (choir singing faintly) (gentle pipe organ music) (choir singing faintly) (choir singing brightly) ♪ Jesus Christ to ♪ (choir singing brightly) (choir singing faintly) (soft pipe organ music) (soft pipe organ music)
(choir singing brightly) (choir singing brightly) (gentle pipe organ music) (choir singing brightly) (gentle pipe organ music) (choir singing brightly) ♪ Almighty God ♪ (choir singing brightly) (bright pipe organ music) (gentle pipe organ music) ♪ Praise God from whom all blessings flow ♪ ♪ Praise Him all creatures here below ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Praise Him above ye heavenly host ♪ ♪ Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ Amen ♪

- Our heavenly Father, we present here at this altar these material things: money, bread, wine, symbols of our sacrifice and of Christ's. Grant that they may be transformed by thy grace so that each shall be a sacrament for the redemption of the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Amen.

- Amen. Lift up your hearts.

- We lift them up to the Lord.

- Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

- It's meet and right so to do.

- It is very meet, right, and our bound and duty that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty Everlasting God. Therefore, with the angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name. Evermore praising thee and saying... ♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts ♪ ♪ Heaven and earth are full of thy glory ♪ ♪ Glory be to thee, O Lord most high ♪ ♪ Amen ♪

- Almighty God, our heavenly Father who of thy tender mercy did give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. Who made thereby the one offering of himself a full perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. And did institute and in his holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again. Hear us O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine according to thy Son, our savior Jesus Christ's holy institution. In remembrance of his passion, death, and resurrection, may be partakers of the divine nature through him who in the same night that he was betrayed took bread. And when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise after supper, he took the cup. And when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink ye all of this for this is my blood of the new covenant

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you shall drink it in remembrance of me." Amen. Now let us join together in our Prayer of Humble Access. We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy, grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this sacrament of thy Son Jesus Christ, that we may walk in newness of life, may grow into his likeness and may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen. (soft pipe organ music) The body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for thee, preserve thy soul and body unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee. And feed on him and thy heart by faith with thanksgiving. The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which was shed for thee, preserve thy soul and body into everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for thee and be thankful. (soft pipe organ music) (soft pipe organ music) (choir singing faintly) (soft pipe organ music) (choir singing faintly)