



The Lord gives parents the tremendous responsibility to do all they are able with the aid of the Christian Community to raise their children as those who belong body and soul to our Lord.

As a parent you are in the best position to sense when your child is ready to come to the Table. Here are some sample questions that you may consider using to open the discussion with your child about his/her desire and readiness to participate in the Lord's Supper.

- When the Bible says God Loves us, how does He show us His love?
- Why did Jesus die on the cross?
- Why did Jesus rise from the grave on Easter?
- When you see the bread and the cup at the Lord's Supper, what do they help us think about?
- What do you do to show God that you love Him back?
- Why do we celebrate the Lord's Supper in a worship service?
- What are some of the things you most enjoy about being with God's people?

Encouraging Growth in Faith

Here are some significant ways that you can encourage your child to growth in faith:

- Consistently pray both for and with your child for his or her faith growth.
- Ensure that your child participates in the Sunday School and children's groups.
- Consistently participate with your child in family devotions and public worship.
- Talk with your child about matters that impact his/her faith---what questions or concerns come up at school or church or when they are with their friends?
- Explore with your child what cultural values and messages he/she experiences through the media or social events.
- Clearly, the most important way parents encourage faith growth in their children is for parents to be consistently growing themselves.
- Ongoing commitment to devotions, public worship, liberally using one's gifts, participation in groups—all model the desire to continue to grow in faith.

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*Children and the
LORD'S SUPPER*



**Blackhall St. Columba's
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Children and the Lord's Supper at

What You and Your Children Should Know

Dear Parent(s):

We are delighted that you are taking time to consider how to introduce your child to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. First experiences leave impressions that will last a lifetime for our children, and we want them to sense God's love and nurturing presence as the essence of the sacrament.

In the early church, communion was offered to those who wanted to discover the meaning of Christianity. It was an introduction to the faith for inquirers, a sustenance in the faith for believers, and a strengthening of the community for the congregation.

Your child is welcome to receive the sacrament when you believe the time is right. To assist you, our church has prepared this leaflet to use as a resource for your family.



Steps Toward Your Baptised Child's Participation in the Lord's Supper

Step 1:

The decision of whether a baptised person is able to participate meaningfully in the Lord's Supper begins at home. The parent(s) and child need to discuss the child's desire to participate and his/her expression of faith in Jesus as the Saviour. When the parent(s) and child are confident that the child can participate meaningfully, they are invited to move to Step 2.

Step 2.

Parent(s) and child arrange for a meeting with their district Elder or the Minister for an age-appropriate discussion of the child's desire and faith. Please note the expectation of the child's ability to express faith is directly tied to the child's level of maturity. It is an age-appropriate expression of faith that is most important.

Step 3:

Your Elder will report to the Elders (Kirk Session) on the conversation in Step 2 and make a recommendation regarding your child's participation at this time or if further discussions are needed.

Step 4

Following the decision to welcome your child to the Table, the child is included as a participant at the Lord's Supper and the congregation is informed and invited to celebrate his/her joining with us in communion.



The meal that Jesus gave us comes from what is called the 'Last Supper', which Jesus ate with his friends just before he was arrested and died on the cross.

Throughout his life and ministry, Jesus used images, stories, and actions to try to teach people about God. At the Last Supper, Jesus used bread and wine to teach his disciples about his approaching death and its meaning for them, and for us.

He taught that just as bread has to be broken in order to be shared and eaten, and just as wine has to be poured so that it can be shared and enjoyed, so he himself would have to die and be 'broken' and his blood 'poured out' so that all people might be able to enjoy a right relationship with God.

