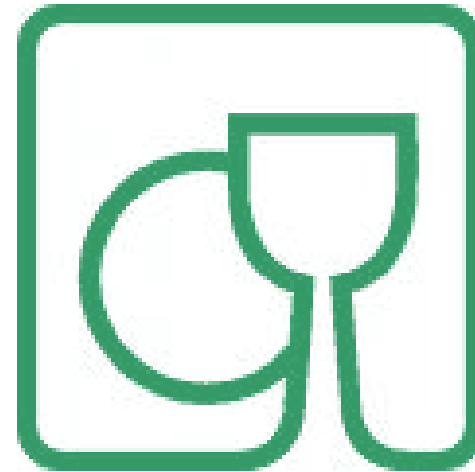


Resources list

You may find some of the following materials helpful in following up what you have learnt on this course:

- Common Worship Today
(Ed. Mark Earey and Gilly Myers) Harper Collins, 2001
- Using Common Worship: Holy Communion
(Mark Beach) Church House Publishing, 2000
- Communion in Common Worship: The Shape of Orders One and Two
(Jeremy Fletcher) Grove Books W 159, 2000
- The Eucharistic Prayers of Order One
(Colin Buchanan and Charles Read) Grove Books W 158, 2000
- Home Communion: A Practical Guide
(Carolyn Headley) Grove Books W 157, 2000
- How to Distribute Communion
(Trevor Lloyd) Grove Books W 220, 2014

Space for your own notes:



Welcome to the deanery session of the LMC course

A: Introductions [15 mins]

1. Getting to know you: who we are.
2. Opening prayer.
3. Divide into groups of 4, with as much variety of parishes/gender/age as possible.
4. Within the groups, introduce yourselves with your name, church background and a brief idea of what roles you have within your parish (eg PCC member, lesson reader, intercessor, home group leader, youth and children's leader, etc).
5. How the course will run and what you will need.

B: Experiencing the eucharist¹ [30 mins]

1. In groups of 4, discuss:
 - How is the eucharist celebrated in your parish?
 - What does the eucharist mean for me?
 - Have you experienced different ways of celebrating it?
 - What similarities/differences are there within the group?
2. Report back to the whole group.
3. In the whole group, identify:
 - What different names are used for this service?
 - What significance do the different names have?
4. What is your understanding of a sacrament?

Presence

This is something to experience rather than analyse; it's where we encounter Christ. He may be said to be present in the eucharist in a variety of ways: in the bread and wine; in the sacramental action; in the word; in the congregation gathered. Compare Matthew 18.20 and John 6.53-56. Again, different Christians have different beliefs in this area: **where do you believe Christ is in the eucharist?**

Proclamation

'As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again' (1 Corinthians 11.26). **How does the eucharist act as a proclamation? What place does it have in evangelism?**

F: Conclusion [5-30mins]

Recap the main points covered. What has been familiar and what has been fresh? What have the group learnt from each other?

The session may end with a simple eucharist together.

Following this session with people from a variety of parishes and traditions you will need to have a briefing session within your own parish (with its own distinctive way of doing things). You should arrange this with your own Incumbent as soon as is convenient.

¹ In these notes the term 'eucharist' is used to refer to the service; as section B3 will show there are many different names used within the Church of England and in other churches.

¹ We are grateful to the Diocese of Winchester for some of the ideas used in this section.

E: The meaning of the eucharist [30 mins]

The meaning of the eucharist is multi-layered; different meanings will have greater or lesser significance for different Christians. The various eucharistic prayers in *Common Worship* explore these ideas in different ways.¹

Thanksgiving

Eucharist = thanksgiving. Thanking God for all he has done in and through Christ; for his incarnation, death and resurrection; for the gift of the Holy Spirit and his work in our lives (2 Corinthians 9.15). **What do you want to thank God for most in a eucharist?**

Communion

A word with many meanings: our communion with God in and through the service (1 Corinthians 1.9); our communion with each other in worship and fellowship (Acts 2.42). **Could you have a solitary eucharist?**

Remembering

This goes back to Jesus' words at the last supper: 'do this in remembrance of me' (Luke 22.19). In each eucharist we experience again and enter into the reality of what God has done for us in Jesus. **What do you remember most vividly in a eucharist?**

Sacrifice

This has been an idea that different Christians have understood in various ways. In the New Testament there is teaching about Jesus' 'once for all' sacrifice bringing to an end the repeated sacrifices of the Old Testament system (eg Hebrews 7.27, 10.12). His sacrifice includes his self-offering and self-emptying (Philippians 2.5-8) as well as his death on the cross.

Our sacrificial response is in worship ('our sacrifice of thanks and praise') and in our lives as disciples ('through him we offer you our souls bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.'). **In what ways do you understand the idea of sacrifice in the eucharist?**

C: The origins of the eucharist [15 mins]

1. Read **Mark 14.12-26**, an account of the last supper that Jesus had with his disciples before his trial and crucifixion. Imagine you were there.
2. Explore the background of the story:
 - Passover
 - Sacrifice – the priest and victim
 - Unleavened bread
 - Threats to Jesus' life: the sense of foreboding
 - Covenant
3. Discuss: what were the disciples' feelings as the meal took place?

D: The shape of the eucharist [30 mins]

1. Using the red *Common Worship: Eucharist* booklet, fill in the square boxes on the chart on **pages 4-5** to show the major sections of a eucharist. What might the circle represent? Work in groups; report back to the whole group using the flipchart.
2. In groups, read aloud :
 - Mark 14.22-23
 - Luke 24.30
 - John 6.11
 - 1 Corinthians 11.23-24
3. Identify what 4 actions are common to these accounts of the different

1	2
3	4

events:

4. Where do these four actions come in the Liturgy of the Sacrament? Add them to your chart.

The shape of the eucharist

