

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VILLA RICA, PCA**  
**Auld Lang Syne**

Villa Rica communion service 1/5/03

**Ex. 12:25-27** <sup>25</sup>“When you enter the land which the LORD will give you, as He has promised, you shall observe this rite. <sup>26</sup>“And when your children say to you, ‘What does this rite mean to you?’ <sup>27</sup>you shall say, ‘It is a Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.’” And the people bowed low and worshiped.

Many New Year's Eve observances include the singing of Auld Lang Syne. Auld lang syne is Scotch for **old long since**, hence long ago. Perhaps you sang it on New Year's Eve.

Should Old Acquaintance be forgot,  
 and never brought to mind,  
 should old acquaintance be forgot,  
 in days of auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
 for auld lang syne.  
 We'll take a cup O' kindness yet,  
 for auld lang syne.

And here's a hand, my trusty friend,  
 and gie's a hand O' thine,  
 We'll take a cup of kindness yet,  
 for auld lang syne.

It is supposed to be a time of remembering friends, acquaintances and pleasant times in their company in times past, perhaps long ago, as the old year-ends and a new year begins.

**I. The Passover Auld Lang Syne**

A. The Lord instituted a time of remembrance for the Israelites when he instituted the Passover. The Passover was to mark the beginning of the New Year and a new life of freedom out of the bondage of Egypt.

The Lord gave explicit instructions on how this memorial feast was to be celebrated. On the tenth day of the New Year they were to take an unblemished year-old male lamb from among the sheep or goats. They were to keep it alive until the 14th day of the month and then at twilight they were to kill the lamb. The blood of the lamb was to be smeared on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they would eat it. They were to roast the lamb and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They were to eat all of it, not saving any of it. Whatever was left over was to be burned in the fire.

They were to eat it with their loins girded and sandals on their feet and a staff in their hand. They were to eat it hurriedly. Why? The Lord tells them why in Exodus 12:12:  
<sup>26</sup>“**And when your children say to you, ‘What does this rite mean to you?’** <sup>27</sup>**you shall say, ‘It is a Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.’**”

The Egyptians would send them out after God had executed his judgments on them. So it was a feast to celebrate redemption. The Israelites were spared the judgment of the Lord on their household by having smeared the blood of the sacrificial lamb on their doorposts and overhead lintel of their houses. Only those houses that had the mark of the sacrificial lamb's blood would be spared. Not only were they spared; they were to leave Egypt forever behind them and commence a new life of freedom as God's people. They were to have a destiny of victory and head for the Promised Land.

B. How does this have anything to do with us? We do not celebrate the Passover. That is a Jewish observance. We aren't Jewish.

Ah, but the Lord Jesus Christ ordained at the last Passover he observed with the disciples that the Passover observance was to be changed to a remembrance of his sacrificial death.

For all disciples since that time we are told that we are to take bread, give thanks and eat it in remembrance of his body given for us. We are to take the cup representing his blood of the covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

It is the New Covenant auld lang syne. We remember what the Lord Jesus Christ did for us and we eat the bread and drink the cup. As our Confession of Faith states in Chapter 29. Turn with me in the hymnal to page 865. Let us read together from paragraphs I and II.

*Our Lord Jesus, in the night wherein He was betrayed, instituted the sacrament of His body and blood called the Lord's Supper, to be observed in His Church, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of Himself in His death; sealing all benefits thereof unto true believers, their spiritual nourishment and growth in Him, their further engagement in and to all duties which they owe unto Him; and, to be a bond and pledge of their communion with Him, and with each other, as member of His mystical body.*

*In this sacrament, Christ is not offered up to His Father; nor any real sacrifice made at all, for remission of sins of the quick or dead; but only a commemoration of that one offering up of Himself, by Himself, upon the cross, once for all: and a spiritual oblation of all possible praise unto God, for the same; so that the popish sacrifice of the mass (as they call it) is most abominably injurious to Christ's one, only sacrifice, the alone propitiation for all the sins of His elect.*

## **II. IT IS A TIME OF OBLIGATORY REPENTANCE, RENEWAL AND COMMITMENT**

A. The Apostle Paul saw the Christian life to be a life of repentance. When the Hebrews got instructions from the Lord on how to observe the Passover they were to eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.

The bitter herbs speak of the remorse of conscience for sins committed, and they were to eat unleavened bread as a sacramental way of saying they would be separate from the world and holy unto the Lord. They were to be a separated and dedicated people.

This sacramental aspect is carried over in the New Testament. Paul wrote to the Corinthians in 1 Cor. 5:6 -8 <sup>6</sup>Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? <sup>7</sup>Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup>Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

When a person becomes a Christian he becomes a new creature in Christ and he is to be separated unto the Lord Jesus Christ. We belong to the Lord. We are not our own but we are bought with a price. And repentance is a way of life, meaning that we put away anything that is offensive to the Lord. We put away evil speaking, bitterness and wrath, all slander and malice. As the Lord says:

Eph. 4:22-32 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup>and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup>and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

<sup>25</sup>Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE OF YOU WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>BE ANGRY, AND YET DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not give the devil an opportunity. <sup>28</sup>He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. <sup>29</sup>Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along

with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

So repentance and renewal should be included in our remembrance of our Savior's sacrifice of himself as we come to the table of the Lord.

We come with thankful hearts that the Lord has redeemed us from the slavery of sin and of Satan's power. We have left behind Egypt and its idolatries and lusts. We have embarked on a new adventure of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are bound for the Promised Land. We leave behind that old life and we commence a new life in Christ. We purge out the old leaven of sin and wickedness and we commit ourselves to a life of love for Christ and love for one another. We are to be tenderhearted, forgiving one another if we have been offended, just as Christ forgave us our sins through the sacrifice of himself on the cross.

Beloved in the Lord, hear what gracious words our Savior Jesus Christ says to all who truly turn to Him:

Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. I am the bread of life: He that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst. Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. Blessed are they, which do hunger, and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled

Truly, truly, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread, which came down from heaven: if any man eats of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

We invite all who repent of their sins and who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation and desire to live as becometh followers of Christ; also all communicants

in good standing in any evangelical church to participate. We also invite all non-communicants to remain as well.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 1st Corinthians 11:23-34

Hear the Words of Institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, as the Apostle Paul delivers them:

1 Cor. 11:23-33 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 27Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. 30For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. 31But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. 32But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world. 33So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

### LET US PRAY

We give Thee thanks, O Lord, for thy great goodness to us and to all men, for Thy faithfulness which never faileth, for Thy mercies which are more than we can number, and for Thy Fatherly hand ever upon us, in health and sickness, in joy and sorrow, in life and death.

Above all, with Thy whole Church throughout the world, we adore Thee for Thy love in the redemption of mankind by our Lord Jesus Christ.

We bless Thee for Thy gift of the Holy Spirit; for the Church filled with Thy presence; for our baptism and nurture in the faith; and for Thy blessed assurance of everlasting life. For these and all Thy gifts, glory be to Thee, O Lord God Almighty.  
*Amen*

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