

Provision Celebration

Introduction for the Participants

This liturgy celebrates God’s provision, drawing inspiration from the Jewish Festival of Booths (Sukkot). It highlights God’s faithfulness in our lives through significant acts as well as his promise to be with us even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

The opening comes directly from the Jewish prayer over the cup of blessing used on ceremonial occasions (Kiddush), specifically the one used to open the Festival of Booths (Shehecheyanu). This prayer is accompanied by the participants sharing the overflowing cup as they as they proclaim God’s overflowing blessing in their lives.

The second section draws inspiration from the various occasions in the Old Testament where God’s people placed stones to remember the mighty works God had done¹⁸. In this liturgy, each person is asked to bring a small object – which we refer to as “eben” from the Hebrew word for stone – that can serve as a symbol of some specific ways God has shown his provision for them.

The final section uses the bread eaten in Jewish ceremonial occasions (Challah) as a reminder of God’s promise to us. Although two loaves are prepared, only one loaf is eaten during our celebration. The second loaf is untouched and is another symbol of God’s abundant provision, from providing the Israelites with an extra portion of manna, to the abundant salvation we have in Christ, all the way up to the abundance we experience in our present day. The citrus peel in the bread is a nod to the citron (Etrog) used in the Feast of Booths ceremony and is used to represent the bitterness of life. The honey is also a nod to the Feast

¹⁸ Gen 28:16-19, 31:43-55, 35:9-15, Josh 4:1-9, 1 Sam 7:7-14

of Booths tradition and is used to represent God's loving presence that sustains us even through difficult situations.