

Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Miss Jo Ann Griffith '59, Honorably Retired PCUSA Missionary  
Distinguished Alum '07

**Scripture:**

Luke 22: 14-30

14 When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. 15 He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. 21 But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. 22 For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" 23 Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this.

24 A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. 25 But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. 26 But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. 27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

28 "You are those who have stood by me in my trials; 29 and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, 30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Devotional:**

In its essence, Advent insists that we humans focus on the Son of God humbling himself to become the Son of Man. All he had ever experienced was life in the presence of his Heavenly Father as a Royal Heir. Then, in God's timing, this Son came to earth as a baby, living a short life of unprecedented sacrificial love. On the last night of his life on earth, this Jesus is found in an upper room surrounded by the twelve apostles, his closest friends, before he is led away to be crucified.

Today, just now, shall we his 21st c. disciples sit figuratively with him there? We hear him say, v. 14, "You've no idea how much I looked forward to eating this Passover Meal with you before entering my suffering". Then within minutes of this close congeniality, there's an interruption caused by their not uncommon, self-centered bickering over 'greatness'. And in response, Jesus directs them to his common theme of servant hood v.27, one he exemplified perfectly, followed by v. 30, "Now I confer on you the royal authority my Father conferred on me, to eat and drink at my table...and be strengthened as you take up responsibilities among the congregations of God's people."

In such times as these, with upheavals of cataclysmic proportions, are we disciples not highly favored and blessed to serve The King, alongside the very one who trod this path of 'serving others' to His very death?

**Prayer:**

Our Heavenly Father. Teach us how to serve, rather than be served, in a world where position is so admired and enjoyed. Have mercy upon us and our congregations for we often ignore those who need Christ's healing power the most. Amen