

Earlsdon Methodist Church
Sunday Morning Worship
2nd August 2020
Theme: Bringing People Together



Scripture: Matthew 14: 13-21

Call to Worship

Let us sit quietly for a moment, and think about our journey here today, and how we are feeling now. Are we ready to give God our full attention and worship him? Then let us come together to share in God's love, to lift our hearts and voices in praise and worship, to seek God's blessing with a new and deep experience of God's power and generosity.
Amen.



Prayers of Adoration, Confession and Thanksgiving

Lord God of compassion and boundless blessings, we are full of amazement that you care so greatly for the needs of your people. We worship and adore you for your generosity, your love, and your power.

Merciful God, we bow before your throne of grace and ask for your forgiveness. For the times we have not trusted you to meet our needs, to take care of us, to feed us with food both physical and spiritual

Forgive us Lord and let us start anew.

For the times we look for our way out of a situation, instead of seeking and trusting you.

Forgive us Lord and let us start anew.

For the times we have withheld food from others, when we have failed to pray for or share a difficult journey or in the joy with others.

Forgive us Lord and let us start anew.

Pause for Reflection

May Almighty God forgive us our sins and keep us in eternal life. Amen

We thank dear Lord, for providing for us. You feed us with your love and mercy and make us a people after you. We thank you for gifts and strengths you have given each of us that in turn we are using them to feed others in your name. **Amen**

Reflection: Matthew 14: 13-21



The parable of Jesus feeding of the 5,000.

Jesus found himself in a tense political atmosphere after John the Baptist had been killed by Herod. Matthew's account of the feeding of the 5,000 begins with Jesus withdrawing on the news of John's death. Is Jesus seeking solace in the wilderness, taking stock of his movement now that John has gone, or getting out of Herod's way?

Whatever the reasons may be, this is a profound political situation with the empire acting against Jesus' movement and ending with the feeding of the 5,000 in the wilderness but the crux of the message is about compassion in action, of the abundant grace of the God who loves and provides for all.

Do we really put our trust in the Lord for our provision, believing Jesus makes a way where there seems to be no way?

The crowds followed Jesus, and his intention was that the crowds are fed whilst his disciples' intention was that he was fed. They were keen to meet Jesus' needs. To the disciples, Jesus was the priority and so they attempted to send the crowds away. They were yet to learn a valuable lesson of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Jesus therefore challenges them to look outwards and not inwards as the crowd's needs for food was more important (v.16)

There are two types of food we can share with others.

- **Physical Food: the things we eat and drink: bread and fish and water, etc.**
- **Spiritual Food: prayers, journeying with others in good and bad times, sharing the 'Good News', friendship, forgiveness, patience, etc.**
- **Do we share our physical and spiritual food with others outside of our church family or small groups?**

The disciples were dismayed as they had very little to eat themselves (17). Jesus Christ went ahead and feeds the crowd so that the disciples will learn what compassion is like as much as they too needed a meal.

What lessons do you need to learn as Jesus' disciples today?

Jesus has a way of pulling us into his works; we are part of all that Jesus does! Even though Jesus performed the miracles, yet he invited the disciples to be a part of it by arranging the seats, giving out food and clearing up afterwards.

Does this ring a bell? - Teas, coffee and biscuits after Sunday service or coffee mornings, or the amazing hospitality in Wellspring?

How wonderful it is that Jesus was able to feed 5,000 men and unknown number of children and women and still a lot more left over for the disciples.

Verse 19: is a 'reminder of the Eucharist – the last supper 'Then he ordered the crowd to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and two fish, he looked up to the heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples and the disciples gave them to the crowd'. The celebratory Christian Feast.

The King of kings in a humble place away from the grand empire to a wilderness to provide for those who believe in him and follow him. A true kingdom of grace and welcome.

Message

As Christians, coming together as a people means we are the communion of saints. We gather in the name of Jesus Christ and when we share bread and drinks in connection to the Eucharist – sharing in the celebratory meal of the Christian tradition.

When we do find ourselves in the wilderness let us think of God's people needing provision and how he provided for them over and beyond their expectations. So, we too will believe that whatever our wilderness, God makes a way where there seems to be no way. God's provision is in abundance, so beloved, let us be prepared to meet the needs of others. **Amen.**

Hymn StF 272: From Heaven You Came Helpless Babe



A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Longing for the time when we can truly share bread and wine together, we pray, loving God, that Jesus meets us now, in this time and this place. Though we cannot receive you in bread and wine, through your Holy Spirit come into our hearts. By your love assure us of your risen life within us even in the darkest times. Make us one with you and with each other as we remember we are part of your body. And as your body equip us still to serve you and minister your grace in new ways to your hurting world. **Amen.** (*Birmingham District Synod Worship*)



Lord, today we pray for people who have little or nothing: for those who feel trapped in their situation, and can't see the bigger picture, or even any tiny glimmer of light.

We pray for people who are hungry: for parents who struggle to feed their children, and themselves. We thank you for the work of food banks and pray that they would have the resources to continue to meet so many needs.

We continue to pray for those unwell or receiving treatment, that your healing balm of Gilead will be upon them and make them whole, in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

We pray for those who grieve the loss of loved ones. May the warm embrace of the Holy Spirit surrounds, them with comfort and hope in Jesus Christ. May those whom we love but see no more find eternal rest in the bosom of our risen Lord.

May your grace and mercies be upon all people and the universe. **Amen.**



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



By the end of the day, the crowds must have been exhausted. They left with full stomachs and full hearts. They had met with Jesus. You have fed us this morning, Lord, and we go out to live the lives you call us to. May we be conscious of your perfect timing in our lives, as we reach out to the outsiders as well as to our own. Bless us Lord. **Amen**

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