

Bulletin for Sunday

2nd August 2020

Good morning! This Sunday's reading is one of the relatively few stories of Jesus which appears in all four gospels, and which is therefore very well-known - the story of the feeding of the five thousand (plus women and children!). First let's sing:

Hymn: Let all the world in every corner sing (Rejoice & Sing 114)

Prayer: As we begin our worship this morning, let's think of some of the people we would normally expect to be worshipping alongside, and who perhaps we haven't seen for many months now... we hold them before God... and we pray:

Loving God, we turn from our everyday lives to worship you:
giving thanks for your creation, and for your presence with us,
even when the world keeps changing
and the ground feels unsure beneath our feet.

We give thanks that you know, understand, and love
each one of us through and through,
with all our needs... all our fears... all our hopes...

We ask your blessing on everything we do,
and everything we bring to you or give in your service,
today and every day. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Readings: Matthew chapter 14: verses 13-21

Reflection: We thought last week, in the context of the parables of the pearl of great price, and of the treasure hidden in a field, of our deepest and most genuine desires. If we are physically hungry, or fear that we soon will be, food can become a desire so strong that it preys on our mind to the exclusion of other things, as well as gnawing at our stomach.

The crowd had followed Jesus because they had many needs - and he had compassion on them, because he understood; so he spent the day teaching and healing them. But now that the day was drawing to a close, their most pressing need was for food. The disciples could fully understand that. What they couldn't grasp was Jesus' expectation that they do something about it! Surely this was an impossible task...

Does this sound familiar? So often we can see need around us - hunger for food; hunger for community and friends; hunger for affection, for love, for belonging... but meeting that

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