



28 July 2024

Pentecost 10

*'How much is enough?... Just a little bit more'*



**Jesus practised radical inclusion! All are welcome here.**

## **WE GATHER AS PEOPLE OF GOD**

**The Gong is struck three times.** *(The gong calls us to gather, to be present in this time of worship.)*

**Prelude** *(a time for quiet preparation - please be seated.)*

### **Acknowledgement of First Peoples**

The gong has called and settled us in this place, a place where, for thousands of years, the Ngunnawal & Ngambri people have recognised and maintained the sacred with their guardianship and ritual. Today we commit to continuing the sacredness with the spirit of reconciliation, with justice and truth, those essential ingredients of the agape love that is shown to us in the life of Jesus.

**Lighting the Community Candle** *(The candle is lit.)*

We light this candle representing all members of our community.

As we gather today may we hold them all, here or elsewhere, in our hearts. **Amen**

### **Welcome & Introduction**

## Gathering prayer

We gather, not as 5000 (besides women and children), but as 50 or so people of faith and doubt, with 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge and wonder, to listen to and share stories and song and a humble agape meal.

**We gather to be challenged, to reflect, to sit quietly together in community, but sing joyously, encouraging and supporting each other and seeking a little bit more as we follow Christ's way.**

## Passing the Peace

We are heirs to the love that surpasses all understanding

We have been blessed with so much more than we need

We have more than enough to feed the world's multitudes

Let us embody Christ's love to the world so that all may know the peace of Christ, the love that is God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let us share a sign of peace with each other.

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Hymn: TIS 156 Morning has Broken**

## WE REFLECT ON WORDS FOR OUR TIME

**Reflection: *'How much is enough?... Just a little bit more.'***

Richly blessed, may we serve you.

**Reading 1: John 6 (verses various)**

## Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

**6** Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), <sup>2</sup> and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages<sup>[a]</sup> to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

<sup>8</sup> Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, <sup>9</sup> "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). <sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

<sup>12</sup> When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

<sup>14</sup> After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." <sup>15</sup> Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

## **Jesus the Bread of Life**

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

<sup>28</sup> Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

<sup>34</sup> "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

## **Reading 2: 'Where is Bread?'**

"Where is bread?" the great crowd murmured-  
Thousands strong, yet all in need.  
"Where is bread?" your people wondered  
Faced with such a crowd to feed.  
Who, Lord Jesus, could have guessed it?  
One small boy brought food to share.  
Taking what he gave, you blessed it  
All were fed, with much to spare.

Where is bread? We know their yearning;  
Every day we wish for more.  
God, in time, we're slowly learning:  
All we own can make us poor.  
Our possessions can possess us,  
Leaving hunger deep inside.

Christ our Bread, come now and bless us;  
At your feast, we're satisfied.

“Where is bread?” the call is rising;  
Millions cry who must be fed.  
God, your answer seems surprising:  
” **You**, my Church, **you** give them bread”.  
Bread to fill each hungry spirit,  
Bread for hungry stomachs, too.  
Give us bread and help us share it.

## **WE SHARE A MEAL**

**Hymn: As we gather at your table (*sung to tune TIS 392*)**

As we gather at your table  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's victory known

Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There, no more, will envy blind us,  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with Saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.

### **The Meal**

**We rejoice as Jesus often rejoiced in the simple pleasure of sharing a meal with friends in the Woden Valley Uniting Church community.**

We give thanks for the years of bonding, for respect and sensitivity to differences among us, for affirmation and encouragement, for generous sharing and mutual support, and for all that we mean for each other.

**We share this bread and wine and let them speak to us as Jesus let them speak to him of what the eye cannot see:**

- commitment
- **relationships**
- sharing
- **gratitude**
- healing
- **and hopes.**

As we eat and drink together with deep gratitude for the blessings in our lives and who we are for one another, we give thanks for all that has been and for all we are for each other.

**May the bonds of our loving community continue to strengthen as we each face whatever life holds for us as individuals and as a church.**

And may there always be a little bit more: may we always be, for each other, real expressions of the body of Christ. **Amen**

*(As we eat, let us share with each other 'a wish' that we hold, (we have 5 minutes for the meal and sharing a wish and then Helen will play Give Thanks).*

**Music for quiet reflection: Give Thanks**

## **WE ADD A LITTLE BIT MORE**

**Offerings** *(plate near servery for offerings at end of service)*

We give thanks for the gifts of faith and trust, hope and patience, which we bring with our offering today and our offerings of so many kinds that are given to our congregation and wider community during the rest of the week. **Amen.**

**Prayers** *(Light the Caring Candle)*

**The Care Candle Song - Aaron Harper**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. We take a match,<br>And light a spark,<br>To show the want within our hearts,<br>To share each joy,<br>To bear each pain,<br>We take a spark,<br>And light a flame. | 2. We take a flame,<br>And light a fire,<br>To represent our heart's desire,<br>To share our hopes,<br>To bear our shames,<br>We take a spark and light a flame,<br>We light a flame. |
|--|---|

**Prayers of the People** (*The response after each prayer, is...and a little bit more*)

We pray for all who allow the mind and heart and spirit of Jesus to motivate their actions.  
**...and a little bit more**

We pray that Christian leadership may be open and affirming, creative and challenging.  
**...and a little bit more**

We pray that all Christians might better recognise, acknowledge and acclaim the creative spirit's presence in all people, at all times and in all places.  
**...and a little bit more**

For ourselves gathered here we ask the grace to be who and what we ritualize here: the body of Christ, people committed by our Amen to allowing this spirit to move freely in our lives.  
**...and a little bit more**

We give thanks that we have gathered here as the body of Christ.  
**...and a little bit more**

We rejoice in the giftedness of each person here.  
**...and a little bit more**

We are grateful for who we are for each other.  
**...and a little bit more**

We consider ourselves blessed *in* and *by* the creative spirit.  
**...and a little bit more**

**May we be truly eucharistic in all we do through this prayer, and we add our Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*we say together*)

**God, you are life for us, Holy be your name.  
Your new day come;  
Your will be done on earth as in your vision.  
Give us this day our bread for the morrow;  
And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Strengthen us in the time of test,  
And deliver us from evil.  
For the power and the splendour and the fulfilment are yours,  
Now and forever. Amen.**

## WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

### Blessing

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright no matter how grave the day may appear.

**I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun even more.**

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive and everlasting.

**I wish you enough pain so that even the smallest of joys in life may appear bigger.**

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

**I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.**

I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final goodbye.

### Hymn: Jesus Christ, Teacher, Carer, Rebel *by George Stuart*, sung to TIS 315

The Lord, a wondrous teacher brought a challenge when he spoke;

His authority was welcomed by the poor and simple folk;

Yet the truth he taught and lived was calculated to provoke.

His wisdom guides us on

*Glory glory Hallelujah (x3) his **wisdom** guides us on.*

The Lord, a patient carer, was aroused by human need

He gave healing and forgiveness and the freedom to succeed

They were tired, they were hungry, the five thousand did he feed

His caring draws us on.

*Glory, glory, Hallelujah (x3) his **caring** draws us on*

The Lord, a fearless rebel, faced the power of his day;

He exposed the shallow piety of orthodox display;

He fought battles with the victim, heartless laws he'd disobey;

His courage leads us on.

*Glory, glory, Hallelujah (x3) his **courage** draws us on*

The Lord, as teacher, carer, rebel calls to everyone;

There are conflicts to engage and there is work that must be done.

For in him we have assurance that the victory will be won;

His triumph drives us on.

*Glory, glory, Hallelujah (x3) his **triumph** drives us on.*

### Postlude - Postlude

*The Worship and Community Candles are extinguished.*

## **This Week at Woden Valley Uniting Church**

A time of community to share notices, sharing, comments, significant birthdays, anniversaries.

### **Morning Tea**

You are invited to share in this time of fellowship and friendship.

### **Acknowledgements/Sources:**

CCLI Licence 546647;

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>; <http://www.revgrahamlong.com/the-awesome-in-the-little/>; [https://www.sermonsfromseattle.com/series a five loaves two fish GA.htm](https://www.sermonsfromseattle.com/series-a-five-loaves-two-fish-GA.htm); [www.Babyvine.com.au](http://www.Babyvine.com.au); <https://medium.com/@davidpriede/the-endless-pursuit-unveiling-the-roots-of-humans-insatiable-desire-for-more-c9d2d36a9ec5>; <https://www.npr.org/2015/08/13/432122637/keynes-predicted-we-would-be-working-15-hour-weeks-why-was-he-so-wrong>; *Insatiable: Why Everything is not Enough* January 2020, *Philosophy in the Contemporary World* 26(1):69-89; Morwood Michael, *Praying a New Story*, Spectrum Publications, Richmond, Vic 2003