

Worship at home – 2nd Aug 2020

Key: Scriptures: Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

²⁰ Everyone ate and had enough. Then the disciples took up twelve baskets full of what was left over.

Key Themes:

Jesus organises a meal for a multitude in the wilderness as a sign of compassion, and a lesson to the disciples that they need to look around them, see the need and meet it.

Call to Worship:

Let us sit quietly for a moment, and think about our journey with God over lockdown. Now, are we ready to give God our full attention and worship him this day? Then let us come together through time and space 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.

Hymn: Dream Small.
Josh Wilson

[Verse 1]

It's a momma singing songs about the Lord
It's a daddy spending family time that the world said he cannot afford
These simple moments change the world
It's a pastor at a tiny little Church
Forty years of loving for the broken and the hurt
These simple moments change the world

[Chorus]

Dream small
Don't buy the lie you've gotta do it all
Just let Jesus use you where you are
One day at a time
Live well
Loving God and others as yourself
Find little ways where only you can help
With His great love
A tiny rock can make a giant fall
Dream small

[Verse 2]

It's visiting the widow down the street
Or dancing on a Friday with your friend with special needs
These simple moments change the world
Of course there's nothing wrong with bigger dreams

Just don't miss the minutes on your way, your bigger things
'Cause these simple moments change the world

[Chorus]

But dream small
Don't buy the lie you've gotta do it all
Just let Jesus use you where you are
One day at a time
Live well
Loving God and others as yourself
Find little ways where only you can help
With His great love
A tiny rock can make a giant fall
So dream small

[Bridge]

Keep loving, keep serving
Keep listening, keep learning
Keep praying, keep hoping
Keep seeking, keep searching
Out of these small things and watch them grow bigger
The God who does all things makes oceans... from river

[Chorus]

But dream small
Don't buy the lie you've gotta do it all
Just let Jesus use you where you are
One day at a time
Live well
Loving God and others as yourself
Find little ways where only you can help
With His great love
A tiny rock can make a giant fall
Yeah, five loaves and two fishes could feed them all
So dream small
Dream small

Prayers:

Mighty God of miracles, we come before you this day. We imagine what it might have been like to be a part of the 5,000 strong crowd. There may be far fewer of us in our fellowship, but we think about the people in other churches and our towns and across the world who are all worshipping you this week. Bound us together by your great love, as we gather in one Spirit to meet you, in Jesus name.

Dear God, you look deep inside us, seeing not only our outer but our inner needs. Have compassion on us, we pray. Feed us today from your holy word, and we will be filled.

Amen.

I know I don't listen properly to you. I'm easily distracted. Or I listen, but still go my own way, putting myself first.

Forgiven by you, I can start anew.

Sometimes, Lord, I don't trust you to meet my needs, to take care of me, to feed me with food both physical and spiritual.

Forgiven by you, I can start anew.

Sometimes, Lord, I'm anything but prepared for my journey with you.

Forgiven by you, I can start anew.

Sometimes, Lord, I look for my own ways out of a situation, instead of seeking and trusting you.

Forgiven by you, I can start anew.

Amen

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 - Good News Translation (GNT)

⁸ The LORD is loving and merciful,
slow to become angry and full of constant love.

⁹ He is good to everyone
and has compassion on all he made.

¹⁴ He helps those who are in trouble;
he lifts those who have fallen.

¹⁵ All living things look hopefully to you,
and you give them food when they need it.

¹⁶ You give them enough
and satisfy the needs of all.

¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all he does,
merciful in all his acts.

¹⁸ He is near to those who call to him,
who call to him with sincerity.

¹⁹ He supplies the needs of those who honour him;
he hears their cries and saves them.

²⁰ He protects everyone who loves him,
but he will destroy the wicked.

²¹ I will always praise the LORD;
let all his creatures praise his holy name forever.

Reflection:

- This Psalm echoed our Gospel reading today.
- *¹⁵ All living things look hopefully to you,
and you give them food when they need it.*

*16 You give them enough
and satisfy the needs of all."*

- The psalmist wants us to know that God can and will provide for our every need.
- He is merciful in all his acts.
- He is near to those who call on him and he protects those that love him.
- In this time of continued separation from our building and from one another God is still constant and true.
- He is still mighty to save and gracious and kind.
- He still wants his people to lead on and into him.
- We can be assured of His continued love.
- Let us not forget that our God is in the middle of this Pandemic with us, keeping us strong.

Reading: Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

¹³ When Jesus heard the news about John, he left there in a boat and went to a lonely place by himself. The people heard about it, and so they left their towns and followed him by land. ¹⁴ Jesus got out of the boat, and when he saw the large crowd, his heart was filled with pity for them, and he healed their sick.

¹⁵ That evening his disciples came to him and said, "It is already very late, and this is a lonely place. Send the people away and let them go to the villages to buy food for themselves."

¹⁶ "They don't have to leave," answered Jesus. "You yourselves give them something to eat!"

¹⁷ "All we have here are five loaves and two fish," they replied.

¹⁸ "Then bring them here to me," Jesus said. ¹⁹ He ordered the people to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks to God. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ Everyone ate and had enough. Then the disciples took up twelve baskets full of what was left over. ²¹ The number of men who ate was about five thousand, not counting the women and children.

Reflection:

- Matthew's account of the feeding of the 5,000 begins with Jesus withdrawing on the news of John's death.
- Is he seeking solace in the wilderness, taking stock of all that had happened so far.
- Maybe this time of lockdown is a bit like a wilderness for us.
- Is it also a time where we can take solace in God, and take stock of all that has been?

- However, the wilderness Jesus finds himself in is soon bursting with life and thousands of people wanting to hear what he has to say.
- The crowds follow Jesus as he does not send them away but with compassion and care he meets their needs.
- The disciples object as they do not have enough food to meet their own needs let alone the needs of the crowd.
- But Jesus feeds them miraculously to teach his companions compassion.
- Although the miracle is Jesus' doing, the disciples are invited to play their part by making the seating arrangements, distributing the food and clearing up afterwards.
- Amazingly, five loaves and two fish had become a banquet for 5,000 men and unnumbered women and children, with more left over for the disciples than they had started with.
- Again, God provides for his people, like how he provided manna in the desert.
- Of course, for us today, as we reading it in the light of Jesus' death and resurrection, there are also strong overtones of Holy Communion.
- Bread broken and shared, showing loving kindness to those that follow.
- Last week we looked at images of the kingdom, and this week we are looking at the compassion of Jesus where everyone has enough.
- Jesus takes 5 small loaves and two fish, a small for the number of people present, and after blessing them meets the needs of the people gathered so that everyone has enough.
- Today we gather in our homes, to be reminded that if we put our small faith into his hands, God can do amazing things with us so that everyone one will have enough.
- In these difficult times, it is hard to sometimes see a way forward, but if we put our trust in God, everyone will have enough.
- What does enough look like for you?
- What today can you pray for so that you have enough?
- As we move to re-opening our church building what does 'enough' look like for our fellowship and for the mission that God had given to us to be salt and light and people of the kingdom in his world?

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

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, in particular we think of our local food banks, and we pray that they would have the resources to continue to meet so many needs.

We pray that you would give us an appreciation of our food; the work that goes into producing and distributing it. We pray for those companies that seek to give a fair wage to the workers employed by them. Teach us not to be wasteful, but to preserve and pass on the goodness of your earth.

We pray for those we know who are sick, lonely or in need of our prayers at this time, we think particularly of:

Paul Davies – Seaton

Pam Lucas – Seaton

Brain Margetts – Dalwood

Mary Long - Axminster

Mary Berry – Dalwood.

Audrey Hicks – Axminster

Amen

Hymn: May the mind of Christ, my Saviour,

1. May the mind of Christ, my Saviour,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and pow'r controlling
All I do and say.
2. May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His pow'r.
3. May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.
4. May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self-abasing,
This is victory.
5. May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.
6. May His beauty rest upon me,
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only Him.

Kate B. Wilkinson

Blessing:

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.**