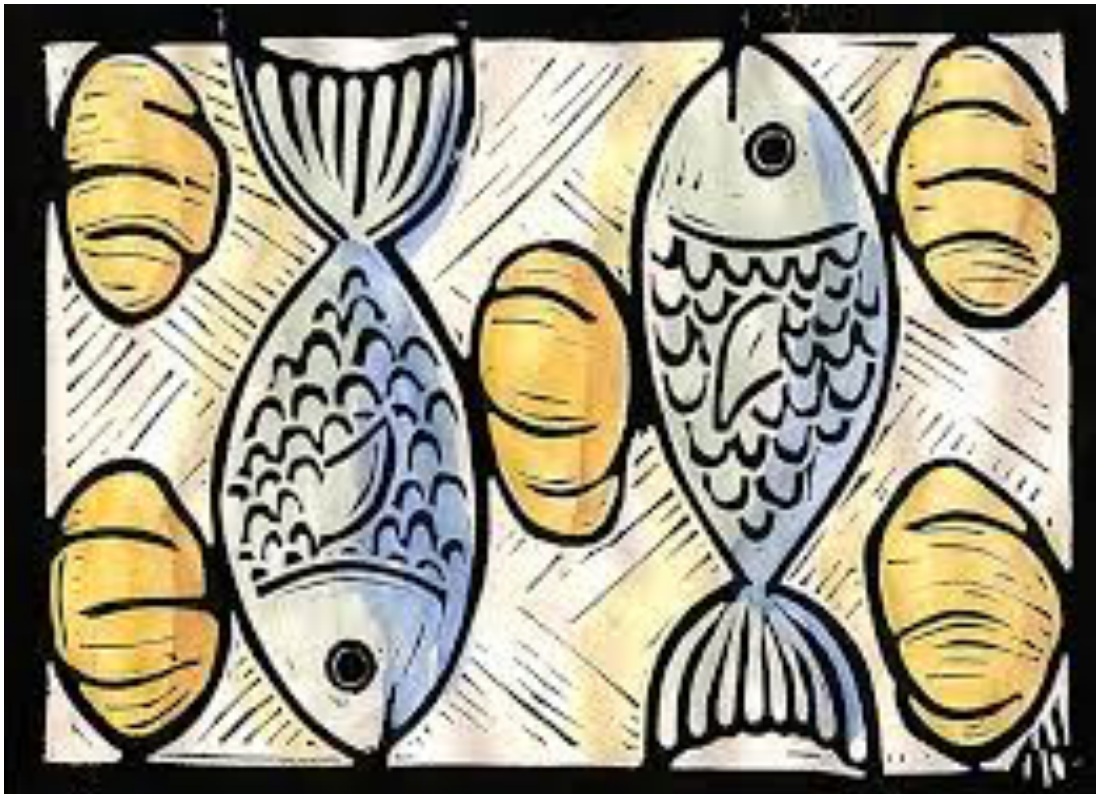


Christ Church

High Harrogate



John 6:1-21

As Parish service for when we're
UNITED but **APART**



for the

**Ninth Sunday
after Trinity**

28th July 2024

Welcome to Christ Church, praying and united, with the whole Church of God ; may this bring a blessing upon your home, as also upon the needs of loved ones and the world,

We build upon all that we have shared and shared still, as now we rejoice in our renewal in Christ's grace, gather as the Church, and unite in fellowship, proclamation and prayer from the place of our own homes.

Be it 8am or 10am or other _ still, maybe, the wisdom to quieten our mobile phone  and be very much in prayer  .

Please sit very comfortably.

Please feel free to sing ; and maybe to speak some parts of this prayer time out-loud _ you may find it surprisingly helpful.

Please, above all, simply know that we are all together ; and as we pray where we are now, so do many many more, across the town, across these towns, and across the world,

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Matthew

The Greeting

In welcome of one-another, near or far -

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
the Love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.

[And also with you.]

Prayers of Penitence

As we prepare to meet Christ in word and prayer,
let us call to mind and confess our sins
in penitence and faith.

- Silence is kept for a short time, in Confession and Prayer.



Your unfailing kindness, O Lord, is in the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds :
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
and your justice as the great deep :
Christ, have mercy,

All Christ, have mercy.

For with you is the well of life
and in your light shall we see light :
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

In sharing and receiving the Absolution of God :

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.



Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church :
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace ;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading



2 Kings 4 : 42 - 44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God : twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, ‘Give it to the people and let them eat.’⁴³ But his servant said, ‘How can I set this before a hundred people ?’ So he repeated, ‘Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, “They shall eat and have some left.”’⁴⁴ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSJ_5e8_r78

**Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing ;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming ;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illumining.**

**Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing ;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with
loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling ;
for none can guess its grace,
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.**

*Words : Italian, Bianco da Siena (d.1434),
tr. R F Littledale (1833-1890)
Tune : Down Ampney*

The Second Reading

Ephesians 3 : 14 - 21



For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. 16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. 18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

John 6 : 1 - 21



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. 2 A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. 3 Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. 5 When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat ?' 6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon

Peter's brother, said to him, 9 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people ?' 10 Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place ; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. 11 Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated ; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' 13 So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. 14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.' 15 When Jesus realised that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. 16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, 17 got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. 18 The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. 19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. 20 But he said to them, 'It is I ; do not be afraid.' 21 Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Val Muscroft (Reader)



The subject that has been chosen for the sermon today, is full of purpose, activity, promise and optimism.

Hunger is replaced by satisfaction, need by fulfilment.

It is taken from The Gospel of John, Chapter 6. We find Jesus being pursued by a large crowd, who were so impressed by the miracles that He had brought about and the healings that the followers had witnessed, that they did not want to let Him go, and so they have followed Him.

Jesus had already crossed the Sea of Galilee, (several miles wide) and from there he had climbed a hillside, and he had sat down with the disciples.

It was the time of the Jewish Passover and so it was a special time, for them all.

The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes, as it is called, is recorded in all four Gospels, and so must have made a large impression on the writers.

The **NEED** for food, was to be replaced ... with **ABUNDANCE**.

There was a very large crowd, coming towards Jesus and the disciples, probably over 5 thousand people we are told. Jesus looked at them with concern, for it is likely that the people, having followed Him from such a distance, collecting more people as they went, would have had nothing to eat since morning or before that.

Jesus was motivated by compassion.

There was a lack, but the people were probably unaware of their needs because of the excitement.

Jesus would know what He was going to do, but He would like to put the disciples to the test.

In the meantime He might have looked down at the landscape which would not be as barren as usual, for it was spring and the ground would be covered with grass as the weather would be cooler, at that time of year. There may have been the lilies of the

field and other wild flowers that Jesus had mentioned to the disciples before.

Where can we buy food for these people to eat, (Jesus said this to put Philip to the test). Philip had no suggestions, as we have seen they were all hungry, and on top of a mountain, with no apparent source of food for miles.

Philip had nothing to suggest.

Simon, however, one of the other disciples pointed out a small boy, with five barley loaves and two small fish, which the boy had to offer. On the face of it, inadequate to the need.

Jesus said to them 'Make the people sit down'. The people sat down, as there was plenty of grass to sit on.

Jesus knew exactly what to do, as He knew that God would supply what was needed.

Jesus took the loaves which the boy had supplied, and as the practise was, Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were sitting there.

He then did the same with the fish. The crowd had as much as they wanted to eat.

There was an abundance of food.

This was not sufficient though, as when the disciples found that there was plenty of food left over, they gathered up what remained, as the practice was, so as not to leave any remaining food behind.

Such was the abundance of food, that they filled an amazing twelve more baskets of food so that there would be a plentiful supply for the homeward journey.

Not only was there enough food for all, but extra to that which had been supplied initially. Five barley loaves, and two fish, had become not only enough to feed 5,000 people, but there was a goodly supply of left-overs as well.

As Jesus moved among the crowd, he continued curing the sick, teaching them many things as He went.

Many people were hungry, not only for food, but for the care He would give.

There had been a deficit, a want, a need, to which there had seemed to be no answer. The people were hungry in the immediate for food, but for many, hungry for other things as well.

A small boy was prepared to respond to that need and start a momentum by offering his food, and with the compassionate love of Jesus, and God as Creator, a miracle had been brought about which for the time met all the needs of an enormous crowd of people. All shared and giving what little they had, there was enough for evryone.

This was enough to generate the Abundance needed for the task.

This resonates with the eucharist, the aspect of the bread and wine, and the loving companionship present in the feeding of the crowd.

What of today ?

We have heard the message of Jesus, there is more than enough for everyone, an abundance in fact. So what do we lack ? A difficult question.

The problem seems to be that there is a fault in distribution of what is needed, which can be in any aspect of life. If we are to think of food, then there is enough, but much is wasted. Jesus was able to make sure that everyone had their needs met, but He had the advantage of being able to see into the heart ... and He knew what those needs were.

We have to try to think as Jesus would think, like the small boy with the loaves and fishes, and be ready to share. To not be afraid to stand out in the crowd, when we see something is wrong. To stand up for what is right.

Something we can do.....

Sometimes it helps to turn things on their head. One way of doing that just now, is to remember it is the School Holidays, and some children and parents are hungry for food.

Tins of food are waiting to be bought and picked up for re-distribution, not into our store cupboards, but to those who need them now, not only in the school holidays, but any time.

As Jesus ends his ministry to the people on the hill, some of the crowd have decided for themselves and without Jesus blessing that He is the Holy one that they are expecting, He is of course, but not the one they expect, he has His own ideas ! This would involve Him in a ministry of the world rather than a ministry in the Spirit of God. This would in any case, put him in conflict with the Romans and cut short His ministry. This the people had not understood.

Jesus would rather wash the feet of the disciples, and feed and serve the people, which he felt was an appropriate ministry for Him, and so when a group try to capture Him and make Him king, He went back to the hills alone.

This is a situation which is meant to illustrate the abundance which is to be found in every aspect of God, if we look for it, but which we have to find and learn how to access it.

Amen.

Val Muscroft

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father ;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate ;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures ;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ,
let us pray to our Father _

O God, the creator and preserver of all,
we pray for people in every place and every kind of need ;
make your ways known on earth,
your saving health among and for the nations.
Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your Church ; guide and govern us by your Spirit,
that we and all who call upon your Name may be led into the
way of Truth, and hold the faith in –
unity of spirit, the bond of peace, in righteousness of life.
Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We pray for, and commend into your goodness,
all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed -
those known to us and those known to you alone -
those in sickness of body, mind, or spirit :
comfort and relieve them in their need,
give them patience in their troubles,
bring good out of all afflictions :
Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We remember in love and faithfulness
all who have gone before us in the peace of Christ,
among whom by name :

Margaret Honeysett, Jean Fish :

We give you praise for all your faithful ones,
we make our prayer with and for all who mourn.
Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

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.**

The Dismissal

*You may wish to sing, you may wish to hum, you may wish to read.
Together we pray, we hope and we rejoice. In the peculiarity of these
days, and in the faithful grace and arms of God.*

CLICK *below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us*

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OR8BaDdj0JE>

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land ;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand :
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow ;
let the firery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through :
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield..**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside,
death of death, and hell's destruction
land me safe on Canaan's side :
songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

*Words: W. Williams (1717-91)
trans. P. Williams (1727-96)*

The Blessing



May Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill us with radiance
and scatter the darkness from our path.

All Amen.

May Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
gladden our eyes and warm our heart.

All Amen.

May Christ, the Dayspring from on high,
draw near to guide our feet into the way of peace.

All Amen.

And may the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

All Amen.

The Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

*Please look to your ROOM and HOME _
--- please look from your WINDOW ---*

In our place, heart and home, and to all the world :

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

{ - and also with you. Alleluia }

The Dismissal

So let us go into the day in peace ;
and may we love and serve the Lord
in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia ! Amen.