

Sunday July 25, 2021
They Filled Twelve Baskets

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: We join together as hungry eaters
to be nourished by the food that you offer us.

People: **God of sustenance, give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: As you care for the wheat fields that turn into bread
and the vineyards that labor to produce sweet wine,
tend to our bodies by feeding us what we need for healthy growth.

People: **God of abundance, give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: The rich crops that you have prepared are now ready
to be harvested by our hands and our hearts.

People: **Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.**

Opening Prayer **Unison**

Holy God, may we savor the dishes of life's nourishment that you have prepared for us this day. With each bite of your holy feast, enliven our senses so that we may delight in the new and tantalizing flavors you have created. May we share the reflex of us sharing this abundance. Amen.

Hymn #347: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Carol Bellamy

1) Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy;
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2) Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. [Refrain]

3) Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! [Refrain]

Prayer of Confession **Unison**

**Great Provider, we recognize that widespread hunger is no longer necessary.
You have given us humans the resources to feed all people,
yet we are selfish.**

**While we overfill our bellies with food
and lay to waste the spaces needed for crops to flourish,
others are crying out for crumbs from our tables.
Living God, cultivate within our hearts reckless generosity,
and plant within us spirits of simplicity and balance in body and soul.**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Though at times we fail to be generous,
your generosity toward us is never-ending!
By sending Christ and the Spirit to your people,
you have extended generosity beyond measure.

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you
People: **And also with you!**

Reading

Karen Yoho

2 Kings 4:42-44 (NIV)

4:42 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."

4:43 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.'"

4:44 He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

Ephesians 3:16-21 (NIV)

3:16 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,

3:17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

3:18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

3:19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

3:20 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,

3:21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Special Music

Carol Bellamy

Gospel Reading

John 6:1-21 (NIV)

6:1 After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.

6:2 A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick.

6:3 Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

6:4 Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near.

6:5 When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip,

"Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?"

6:6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

6:7 Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

6:8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him,

6:9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"

6:10 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.

6:11 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.

6:12 When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

6:13 So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

6:14 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."

6:15 When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

6:16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea,

6:17 got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

6:18 The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.

6:19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified.

6:20 But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

6:21 Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Musical Interlude

Sermon: They Filled Twelve Baskets

Music for Meditation

Prayers of the People

Hymn #537 Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed (verses 1 and 2)

**1) Christian, rise and act your creed;
let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true,
raise your work and life anew.**

**2) Hearts around you sink with care,
you can help their load to bear;
You can bring inspiring light,
strengthen them to do the right.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer **Unison**

Offering Invitation

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
As we have been granted great abundance,
let us offer up those blessings in God's name.

Offering and Dedication **Unison**

**God of wonders, who enabled Jesus and Elisha to feed the multitudes,
bless these gifts and use them to fill empty stomachs and empty hearts.
May our offerings be multiplied to abundantly nourish all the people.**

Benediction **Unison**

**God's love is overwhelming!
As we have been fed this day,
let us go and offer food and drink to others.
Grant us holy instincts of faith
as we trust in you, O God, to place the final touches
on our culinary masterpieces. Amen.**