

**Sunday August 8, 2021
Magnify and Seek the Lord**

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

People: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus,
and we thirst for you, O God.**

Leader: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

People: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus,
and we thirst for you, O God.**

Leader: There is forgiveness with you, and I wait for you O God, my soul waits, for you!

People: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus,
and we thirst for you, O God.**

Leader: In your words, I hope. My soul waits for you, God,
more than those who watch for the morning:

People: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus,
and we thirst for you, O God.**

Opening Prayer Unison

**God of Healing and Transformation,
we hunger and thirst for your abundant life.
we bring you our sorrow and ask for the bread of joy;
we bring you our despair and ask for the bread of hope;
we bring you our weariness and ask for the bread of inspiration.
Meet us here.**

**We need the bread of heaven to sustain us for our journey to find our way,
that we may be one with you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

Hymn #433: In the Bulb There is a Flower
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Keith Johnson

- 1) In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:

butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

- 2) There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
- 3) In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Prayer of Confession **Unison**

**Holy One, we confess that we continue wars in our holy human family
even though we know they cause unspeakable suffering.
Like David, who wept for Absalom, his lost son,
we are filled with sorrow for all the children
in our human family who die in war.
We see our advanced weapons kill and maim children
and yet still we do not find the ways to peace.
Forgive us. Teach us to beat our weapons into ploughshares that we may
bless life. Amen.**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Holy One, you make all things new; your mercy is new every morning,
Let our cries of sorrow awaken within us newfound hope in you and your loving presence.
May this hope herald the way to compassion and courage as we work for peace.
Amen.

Passing of the Peace

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

Reading

Jo-Anne Fournier

Psalm 34:1-8 (NIV)

34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

34:2 My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

34:3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

34:4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

34:5 Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

34:6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.

34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

Special Music

Ken Littlefield

Gospel Reading

John 6:35, 41-51 (NIV)

6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

6:41 Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

6:42 They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

6:43 Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves.

6:44 No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise

that person up on the last day.

6:45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.

6:46 Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.

6:47 Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life.

6:48 I am the bread of life.

6:49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

6:50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

6:51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Musical Interlude

Sermon: Magnify and Seek the Lord

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

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love ... may we give a fragrant offering (*Ephesians 5:1*). The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community. Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.

Offering and Dedication **Unison**

**God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts.
May they be pleasing in your sight.**

Benediction **Unison**

**Jesus said, I am the bread of life.
May we go forth nourished by the bread of life within us.
Our spiritual hunger and thirst is satisfied when we honor the God within us.
Life is short. We will be kind to one another.**