



Anglican Parish of St Nicholas, Mordialloc

Sunday Worship Resource

*Keeping us Connected
as the Body of Christ*

A SUNDAY RESOURCE FOR WORSHIP AT HOME ~~ 9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~~ 25th July 2021 ~~

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,
you have placed within the hearts of all your
children a longing for your word and a hunger
for your truth:
grant that, believing in the one whom you have
sent, we may know him to be the true bread of
heaven and the food of eternal life, Jesus Christ
our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy
Spirit be glory and honour for ever and ever.
Amen.

SUNDAY READINGS

A reading from the Second Book of Samuel. (11:1-15)

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, 'This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite.' So David sent messengers to fetch her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, 'I am pregnant.'

So David sent word to Joab, 'Send me Uriah the Hittite.' And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people

A PRAYER AT THIS TIME OF LOCKDOWN

Lord Jesus Christ, healer and friend, come and care for all of us through the danger and uncertainty of the coronavirus epidemic. To people who are sick, bring healing.

To people who are displaced, isolated, or cut off from family, friends or work, bring comfort and companionship. Work with medical staff as they care for the sick and protect them from harm. Give skill and fruitful research to scientists as they search for treatments, prevention and a cure.

To public health authorities, give wisdom to decide the best ways to manage both this crisis and our anxieties. When communities are fearful, give a calm spirit, and kindness to neighbours and strangers. Through this testing time, and through all the risks we face together, teach us once again how we can love one another as you have loved us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, 'Go down to your house, and wash your feet.' Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, 'Uriah did not go down to his house', David said to Uriah, 'You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?' Uriah said to David, 'The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing.' Then David said to Uriah, 'Remain here today also, and tomorrow I

will send you back.' So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, 'Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die.'

May your word live in us and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 14

Fools say in their hearts, 'There is no God.'

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is no one who does good.

*The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind
to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after
God.*

They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse;
there is no one who does good, no, not one.

*Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers
who eat up my people as they eat bread,
and do not call upon the Lord?*

There they shall be in great terror,
for God is with the company of the righteous.
You would confound the plans of the poor, but the
Lord is their refuge.
*O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion!
When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.*

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians
(3: 14-21)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. 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, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

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

Amen.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (John 6: 1-21)

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. 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?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' 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. 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. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. 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.' 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. When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. 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. But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

REFLECTION

We can be tempted to pass over the miracle stories about Jesus that are recorded in the Gospels.

It could be said that they seem too incredible, too outside our understanding of what is ‘real’, or able to be experienced, by normal humans beings.

We could ask is it really necessary to believe that Jesus walked on water, or magically multiplied the loaves and fishes?

Why do we keep telling these seemingly improbable stories?

The passage we heard in the Gospel of John today — about Jesus feeding the 5,000 — stands out in the Gospels.

All the Gospel writers clearly thought this story was important.

We see it in Matthew, Mark, and Luke — But John also includes it, which is interesting, as there’s not much overlap between John and the other Gospels.

And on top of that, Matthew and Mark like this story so much that they tell it twice!

The second telling is almost identical, except in that version only 4,000 people are fed. The point is, this story about feeding the multitudes was important enough to make it into the Gospels six times. And there are only four Gospels.

So because of that perhaps we need to dig a little deeper and see why the Gospel writers thought this story, this particular miracle was important.

To begin: it’s more than a miracle story, more than just a miracle about a miraculous multiplying....

In the Gospels, the miracle becomes also a parable, a teaching. To put it simply, the feeding of the 5,000

it could be said, is a parable about what we are called to do and who we are called to be.

If we are going to follow Jesus, at some point, he’s going to turn to us and say: *You give them something to eat.* And it will matter how we respond.

The more we begin to imagine the world of this story, the more we see that it’s not about magic at all. It’s about how we see the world, and what we do with what we already have. If that is the case, then in a way, the ‘magic’ has already happened:

God in creation has already given us a world out of nothing, has already provided sun and earth and water and growth — we could ask: what more do we need? God providing something out of nothing, . is the basic story of creation.

But this story is different. Jesus does not make something out of nothing here. No — he takes what God has already provided. He draws out the resources that are already there in the crowd, the community that has gathered around him.

John has altered one important detail in the way he tells the story.

In each of the other Gospels, it isn’t Jesus who asks, “*Where are we to buy bread?*” That question is asked by the disciples — and in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, when the disciples ask this question, Jesus turns to them and says, “*You give them something to eat.*”

Of course, the disciples can see that feeding so many people would be impossible.

As Andrew points out, all they can find is five barley loaves and two fish belonging to a boy in the crowd. But then, Jesus gets them to see what is there.....with new eyes.

The disciples are coming from a place of fear,
of what we don't think we have,
of thinking we never enough!

Six month's wages would not buy
enough bread to feed them!

What Jesus shows us is that, whatever we
have,
whatever God has already given us, is always
enough.

If we look at it in the right way.
If we decide to share.
If we let go of our fear and stop holding onto
to what's "ours" so tightly.

If we can do those things, we absolutely have
enough bread to feed the whole world.

ONLINE WORSHIP FROM ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL...

SUNDAY 25th JULY 2021

8.00am

BCP Service of Holy Communion

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doasOphIN4>)

&

10.00am Sung Eucharist

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRM3Tbqfazc>)

Please be aware that the online worship at
the Cathedral this Sunday celebrates the
feast day of St James, the Apostle.
The readings, prayers etc in this worship
resource are for the 9th Sunday after
Pentecost.

INTERCESSIONS

As we come together as followers of Christ, we pray for
own needs, and those of the world, and the needs of the
Church as it proclaims God's message of hope.

1. We pray for the Church, and all who are called to
leadership, lay and ordained.

We ask that they be given vision to see into the issues of
their time, and courage to uphold Christ's Gospel.

Pause...**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

2. In our prayer for the Church:

we remember our Diocesan Community and Archbishop
Philip, Assistant bishops, Archdeacons and Area Deans.
Today we pray for St Andrew's, Brighton & st John's
Malvern. In the church beyond: the Diocese of the Murry
& Bp Keith Dalby.

Pause...**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

3. We pray for the leaders of our country, and those
who exercise temporal power in the community, that
God may grant them wisdom and compassion in all their
decisions.

We pray for all who struggle in the lockdown time, and
the continuing rollout of vaccinations across our country.
Pause...**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

4. We pray for ourselves who gather as community:
that in this place and when we leave it, we will always
create for those around us, a place of love, warmth and
welcome.

Pause...**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

5. Let us pray for those in our community, and those
we hold in our hearts who are sick or suffering in any
way: that they may feel the healing touch of Jesus in their
pain, restoring them to full health.

We hold up to the Spirit's healing any we hold in our
hearts at this time.

Pause...**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

6. Grant Lord, eternal rest and perpetual light to our
loved ones and all who have died.

In charity we pray for those recently deceased and those
whose year's mind occurs this coming week.

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, **and let light perpetual
shine upon them.**

7. Knowing that Christ hears our every need, we bring
before him our own prayers and concerns, needs and
joys..... Pause...**Lord in your mercy, hear our
prayer.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.
Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your
grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen