

Script Worship Resources - *Fulfillment* - <https://youtu.be/tkt2H-0cF14>

Pentecost 10, Year B,

1st August, 2021

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 CEV / John 6:24-35 CEV

Prelude *At Peace*

An excerpt from *Playera* by E. Granados, Op. 5, No. 5,
played by Annie Center

<https://youtu.be/ePVwC8kL7M>

Welcome/Announcements

Pass the Peace

Call to Worship

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. "Whoever comes to me will never be hungry."
Whoever comes to Christ will never be thirsty. "Lord, give us this bread, always."
May we come to God with hungry hearts; May we come to Jesus with thirsty souls.
May we find fulfillment in the body of Christ;
May we worship God, knowing the fullness of God's love for us.

I'm glad to welcome you to online worship with Olympic View Community Church. We seek to welcome all of God's children to join us in bearing witness to the radically transforming power of God's love. As we gather today, let's reflect on how we share love with others and how we can pass God's peace to those we meet, as we listen to this beautiful selection from our beloved Annie.

Reflection video *Sarabande*

from G Major Cello Suite by J S Bach, played by Annie Center

<https://youtu.be/he1x63rpGnc>

Invocation

Lord, the eyes of all look to You in hope; and You give them what they need. You open Your hand and satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.

We, too, turn to You again, longing to be filled—to eat of the Bread of Life, to drink from Your life-giving streams, to taste Your goodness and live.

May the time we spend together in Your presence nourish our hearts and minds; may it strengthen our relationship with You, and renew our commitment to live in this world as Your faithful disciples.

For You alone are God, the Source and Sustainer of life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

We light a candle today to represent the Spirit burning within us, and among us, guiding our time together. (light candle) **Amen.**

In our reading from Exodus today, ...

First Testament Reading Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 CEV

There in the desert they started complaining to Moses and Aaron,

“We wish the Lord had killed us in Egypt. When we lived there, we could at least sit down and eat all the bread and meat we wanted. But you have brought us out here into this desert, where we are going to starve.”

The Lord said to Moses, “I will send bread^[a] down from heaven like rain. Each day the people can go out and gather only enough for that day. That’s how I will see if they obey me.

Moses turned to Aaron and said, “Bring the people together, because the Lord has heard their complaints.”

Aaron was speaking to them, when everyone looked out toward the desert and saw the bright glory of the Lord in a cloud.

The Lord said to Moses,

“I have heard my people complain. Now tell them that each evening they will have meat and each morning they will have more than enough bread. Then they will know that I am the Lord their God.”

That evening a lot of quails came and landed everywhere in the camp, and the next morning dew covered the ground.

After the dew had gone, the desert was covered with thin flakes that looked like frost.

The people had never seen anything like this, and they started asking each other, “What is it?”^[a] Moses answered, “This is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Scripture Video Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15
Manna In The Wilderness
Lectionary bible reading

<https://youtu.be/wb8wr98euQs>

A Time of Prayer

Today we come together as a community to share together our joys and concerns, and lift them to God in prayer. If you would like to share a specific request to be included in our communal prayer time, please leave a comment in the video below, or email myself at: vicarglenn@gmail.com, and I'll make sure to include that request in next week's service, as well as send a prayer chain email, if you would like.

Joys and Concerns

This morning, let's remember Goldie's sister Mary and her husband, as he enters hospice care.

Let's also keep Myrna in prayer as she prepares for her big move.

We're grateful that we are able to provide space to so many to use our facility and for hosting a craft fair for the community yesterday.

Let's bring these concerns and others in our lives to God together in prayer.

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Pastoral Prayer

Jesus said, *'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'* This is the promise of God to whom we now pray.

Heavenly Father: thank you for sending your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, to be the Bread of Life for the world. Forgive us for elevating earthly appetites above devotion to you. Feed us with the knowledge of Christ so that we recognise our sin and gladly repent in his name.

We pray for those whose daily need for healthy food, clean water and proper shelter goes un-met, and for those misusing what they have in the vain pursuit of pleasure. Feed them with all the good things of Christ for life now and in eternity.

Have mercy on those whose lives have been broken by violence and crime. Feed them with hope and a new life in Christ. And bless our brothers and sisters in prison and those who minister to them.

Feed those who are sick or sorrowing with healing and consolation through Christ. We pray particularly for *(insert names)*. And meet the needs of others we know personally to be in want and whom we now name silently in our hearts... *(brief silence)*

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

Merciful Father, you heard the prayers of your people in the wilderness and fed them bread from heaven despite their sin. Graciously hear us today and feed us too with the Bread of Life from heaven, even our Lord Jesus Christ, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

In our gospel lesson this morning, ...

Gospel Lesson John 6:24-35 CEV

They saw that Jesus and his disciples had left. Then they got into the boats and went to Capernaum to look for Jesus.

They found him on the west side of the lake and asked, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

Jesus answered, “I tell you for certain that you are not looking for me because you saw the miracles,^[a] but because you ate all the food you wanted.

Don’t work for food that spoils. Work for food that gives eternal life. The Son of Man will give you this food, because God the Father has given him the right to do so.”

“What exactly does God want us to do?” the people asked.

Jesus answered, “God wants you to have faith in the one he sent.”

They replied, “What miracle will you work, so that we can have faith in you? What will you do?”

For example, when our ancestors were in the desert, they were given manna^[b] to eat. It happened just as the Scriptures say, ‘God gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

Jesus then told them, “I tell you for certain that Moses wasn’t the one who gave you bread from heaven. My Father is the one who gives you the true bread from heaven.

And the bread that God gives is the one who came down from heaven to give life to the world.”

The people said, “Lord, give us this bread and don’t ever stop!”

Jesus replied: I am the bread that gives life! No one who comes to me will ever be hungry. No one who has faith in me will ever be thirsty.

Scripture Video **John 6:24-35** ***Christ The Bread Of Life***

Lectionary bible reading

<https://youtu.be/uoOAT9GKWac>

Message - *Fulfillment*

When we think of faith, and our community of faith, what comes to mind? What is it that draws us to come to church, to join others of similar minds on a Sunday morning? For many, it is that sense of “getting our fill,” of getting something from the experience that we need, in some fashion. For some, that may be the sense of community and companionship, of being with people whose company we enjoy. For others, it may be the sacredness of the experience, of being in a sanctified space filled with symbolism and ritual. For others it may be the experience itself, that sense of being connected in some way with the Divine. Some may come out of a sense of duty and tradition, to follow the ingrained expectations of worship attendance gleaned from a lifetime of church.

Throughout history people have been drawn to worship for a wide variety of reasons. There was a name in nineteenth century China for persons who came to church because they were hungry for material food. They converted, were baptized, joined the church, and remained active members as long as their physical needs were met through the generosity of the congregation. But once their prospects improved and they and their families no longer needed rice, they drifted away from the church. Missionaries at the time dubbed them “rice Christians.” A similar experience occurred in the late twentieth century in eastern Europe just before the collapse of the Soviet empire. Many flocked to the churches when the church was manifesting courage, and pastors were speaking out against the oppressive Communist regimes. The people came to cheer the church on, and to join the congregation in its opposition to the tyrannical state. But after liberation, the crowds dispersed and the churches began to look as struggling and abandoned as they had before the stirrings of political liberty took hold.

The crowds in our Gospel lesson today that followed Jesus to Capernaum to find him after he fed the five thousand in the wilderness are like those who see faith and church membership instrumentally, in other words, as something they can choose for themselves to use for their own needs or to pursue their own interests. The rice Christians of the nineteenth century and the expedient Christians of eastern Europe are not a new phenomena, but are as old as the gospel itself. Indeed, the crowds of people who followed Jesus to Capernaum wanted to make him king, which was the reason he went away from them. These were the ones who saw the feeding miracle as an end to itself, rather than as the sign it was meant to be, something that pointed them to faith in the living God and in

the Son whom God had sent. Jesus told them that they were not to work for the food that perishes, but were to perform the works of God that lead to eternal life.

In John's account, those who hear this teaching are still hung up on physical manifestations, upon that which satisfies their own experience. This is why they ask the Messiah for another sign. They have had a sign, and still they do not believe. Moses, Jesus reminds them, did not give the bread that came from God in the story from Exodus. It was God who gave the bread that satisfied their hunger for one day only. The same God now gives them bread from heaven that will satisfy forever. In response, they ask him for this bread. Jesus says he is the bread of life who will satisfy hunger and quench thirst forever.

Too often, we forget how to pursue what really matters. We are accustomed to inviting people into the community of faith for all the wrong reasons: for the “right” kind of worship; for political engagement on behalf of the poor and oppressed; for the opportunity to participate in charitable endeavors; to name a few. Yet what we have to offer – in Christ and by Christ and because of Christ – first and foremost is “soul food,” which lasts forever and does not change with the changing circumstances of the church or the world. It is soul food that we desire, and soul food in which we will rejoice, long after our bellies are full of rice and our lives know real justice.

We North American Christians have preached a broken, truncated gospel. We have been good marketers rather than true witnesses. We have bought into a culture that rewards consumers and addresses their needs, instead of proclaiming a gospel that offers us faith in someone who offers permanent fulfillment, not just a temporary fill. So what is it that you seek? Is it a temporary fill, one that satisfies for a moment and constantly needs replenished? Or is it the long lasting fulfillment that Jesus speaks of, one that lasts forever, beyond the limits of the physical?

Certainly there is nothing wrong with fellowship and finding meaning in ritual and symbolism. We are called to our beloved community, to love and support one another, in real and metaphysical ways. We are called to stand up for the oppressed, to fight injustice, to truly love the other. But the problem is to get too caught up in the work, too caught up in maintaining the community as we think it should be, in the social interactions, that lose sight of the real bread of life we are offered.

The bread that shows us a different way of living and thinking. One that compels us to witness the hope found in such a life, and the promise of the life to come. When our focus is too much on numbers and buildings, marketing and image, we miss the very point Jesus came to make, and our witness suffers. Certainly we need to be inviting, but not at the expense of the message we are called to share, the good news. What might happen if we made that our primary focus? How would it look if that was the topic of our meetings and the crux of our future plans? We have a choice. We can seek to offer the bread of life that Jesus offers, or we can be like the rice Christians of times past. May we choose wisely. Amen.

Call to Serve.

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” Let us offer our loaves and fishes in the service of God’s kin-dom.

As we continue to seek to be a place of compassion and support to our community, we ask that you give prayerful consideration as to how you may support our efforts. If you would like to make a donation, gifts can still be mailed to our church office, or online donations can be made through the link in the video description. Thanks again for all your support, and may we continue to work together to keep being a place of ministry that seeks to promote the growth of God's shalom around us. Today, as we listen to the following familiar hymn played by Annie, *They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love*, let’s reflect on how we as individuals and as a community of faith can share God’s love with others in the coming week, how we can witness to the gospel in our own lives.

A Time for Reflection

Reflection on the Word [Video]

They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love,

Words & Music by Peter Scholtes,

Arr. by D.R.F., played by Annie Center,

used and reported under CCLI Streaming License 20261246

https://youtu.be/z857MI_1yAI

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Merciful God, the gifts we bring are so small in comparison to the vast needs in our world—nowhere near enough to save the thousands dying of starvation all around the world, or even to meet the needs of the hungry and homeless in our city. Yet we have brought what we can.

As You once multiplied the five small loaves and two fish, multiply these gifts as well, so that, once again, the hungry may receive all they need, and more. Amen.

Blessing/Assurance

Jesus said, as quoted in Matthew 5:6, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” Blessed are you when you seek the right ways of God; blessed are you when you pursue justice. You are forgiven, loved and restored on this journey of faith. Go with full hearts, wise minds, and the spirit of God in you, to love and forgive and bring healing to our broken world. Amen.

As we extinguish this candle, let's carry it's divine spark into our own lives this week, shining God's love into the lives of all we encounter. Amen.

Postlude ***Consolation***

music by Felix Mendelssohn, Op. 30 No. 3, played by Annie Center

<https://youtu.be/p1vGvJplzml>