



# The Sunday Supplement

Issue 20: 1st August 2020

## Call to Worship

Only the hungry search for bread.

Only the thirsty look for water.

This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.

Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.

Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.

So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,  
our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,  
and let the God of life satisfy our souls.

*Ann Siddall*

## Prayer

We come believing in our emptiness,  
believing that we will never have enough,  
believing that what we have is unworthy.

We come fearful of sharing,  
fearful of losing our tenuous grip on  
security,  
fearful of touching and knowing the pain  
of others.

We come overwhelmed by the hunger,  
overwhelmed by the suffering of children  
near and far,  
overwhelmed by the endless tales of  
senseless violence, greed, and death.

We come aching from the weight of the  
responsibility,  
aching from the chilling challenge of  
knowing our abundance,  
aching from the gnawing awareness that  
we have much to share.

We come clinging to our meagre lunches;  
bless them, and us.  
break them, and us.  
share them, and us.

*Katherine Hawker*



# Reading

Matthew 14:13-21



## Prayer - Loaves and Fishes

Merciful God we praise you for your  
unfailing love.

We praise you for feeding our hunger for  
bread and for "the bread of life."

We praise you for taking our little basket  
of fish and barley loaves  
and using it to feed others.

Lord we ask you for your care and healing  
touch for those who are sick.

We ask for your compassion on those  
who are suffering in our world.

We ask for your comfort for those who are  
grieving.

We thank you for your daily tender  
mercies.

We thank you for your daily love.

We thank you for your daily grace.

We call upon you Lord to empower us  
as we declare who you are to a world  
who needs you.

We call upon you Lord to inspire us  
as we seek to inspire others.

We call upon you Lord to strengthen us  
in our own weakness.

We ask all this in your son's name,  
**Amen.**



## *Thought for the week*



Jesus was hoping for some time alone. News had just reached him of the death of John the Baptist. John was his cousin and, more importantly, had played a key part in preparing the ground for Jesus' ministry. Needing time to think, Jesus had crossed Lake Galilee in search of solitude. Undeterred, the crowds followed him.

Full of compassion, Jesus did not turn away the sick and needy as they came to him. Spending time with each one who approached him and despite his own human need for rest, he healed bodies and restored minds. In the evening, he saw the need for food and met it in a remarkable way. Only when all was done, and the crowds had begun to disperse, did he return to his original purpose. As night came Jesus prayed alone on a mountain.

At this time of year many of us look forward to taking a break from our daily work and routines. This summer, after several months of living with limitations and restrictions, the desire to get away from home seems to be a strong one. Homeworking and home schooling have proved exhausting. Like Jesus, many in our community would welcome a little solitude this summer. By contrast, others have had quite enough of being on their own. For those who live alone and those who have been shielding, a break from solitude is much needed. Like the crowds following Jesus, their need is for human connection and comfort.

Earlier this year COVID-19 restrictions led to shortages of some foods. A combination of panic buying and disruption to supply chains led to empty shelves in the shops. Among the items that were hard to buy were the flour and yeast needed to make bread. The problem was short lived but was a reminder of the importance of this simple foodstuff. In a deserted place near Lake Galilee, Jesus' disciples were panic stricken as they were told to feed a crowd of thousands. They had meagre resources – just five small loaves and two fish. Their problem was, of course, soon resolved by Jesus in a remarkable way.

What happened on that occasion long ago is more than just a story of a single miraculous event. It is more than a sign that Jesus wasn't simply a good teacher or a gifted healer. Troubled and in need of time out, Jesus put his plans on hold and responded to the needs of those gathering around him. On that day the actions of Jesus spoke of the unlimited love and infinite compassion of God. Today, as then, he looks on us with that same compassion. Whatever our need, we will find healing and wholeness if, like the crowds by Galilee, we follow Jesus no matter what it takes.



## When I feel the touch

*Keri Jones, David Matthew*

When I feel the touch  
Of Your hand upon my life,  
It causes me to sing a song  
That I love You, Lord.  
So from deep within  
My spirit singeth unto Thee,  
You are my King, You are my God,  
And I love You, Lord.

Jharna Saha chose "When I feel the touch" for this week's Sunday Supplement.  
Jharna sings this song every morning.

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## Blessing

As you leave this place  
remember that you do not go alone.  
God is close at hand.  
He hears the cry of all who call on His name.  
He honours those who honour Him,  
listening to their prayers and coming to their aid.  
So go from here with joy and confidence,  
to love and serve God and one another.

