



"Loaves and Fishes", John August Swanson, 2003



THE 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
A Service of Word & Feast

August 2, 2020 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Christianity has taught us to care. Caring is the greatest thing, caring matters most.”

— Friedrich von Hügel

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection

Prelude — “Adorn Yourself, O Dear Soul,” BWV 654, by J. S. Bach *Dr. Patricia Snyder, organ*

Welcome

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship — *from Psalm 145*

One: Gracious and merciful is the Lord,
slow to anger, full of love.

Many: **The Lord is good in every way,
merciful to every creature.**

One: The Lord supports the fallen,
raises those bowed down.

Many: **The eyes of all look to God,
who gives them food in due time.
God's hand opens wide
to feed all living things.**

One: The Lord is near to those who call,
who cry out from their hearts.

Many: **We will sing the Lord's praise,
all flesh will bless God's Name,
holy, both now and for ever.**

Hymn — “Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven”

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Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

Many: **God of compassion,
whose heart goes out
to the hungry and destitute;
who takes our lack
and transforms it into much:
give us the bread that satisfies,
the food without price,
that our lives may be freed
to share your overflowing love;
through Jesus Christ, the breaker of bread. Amen.**

News from our Life Together

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Refrain — “Break Thou the Bread of Life” – Verse 1

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Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Isaiah 55:1-5

God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

Scripture Reading — Matthew 14:13-21

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

Refrain — “Break Thou the Bread of Life” – Verse 2

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Sermon — “A Fantastic Feast”

The Rev. Matthew Emery

Responding with our Gifts

During the offertory music, while reflecting on the gifts we have to offer, those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions—joys and concerns—via the “Chat” feature in Zoom. These petitions will be collected together and transmitted to Pastor Matt for inclusion during the time for prayers of the people.

An Offering Thought

When [Jesus] went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. — Matthew 14:14

Compassion and mercy. Wherever he goes, Jesus shows compassion and mercy, especially for the most vulnerable. As we steward our congregation into the future, how can compassion and mercy be a guiding principle for us and our church to help connect with our community and neighbors?

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “My Tribute” by A. Crouch

Elaine Chague, soloist

How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me?
Things so undeserved yet You prove Your love for me.
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.
All that I am and ever hope to be I owe it all to Thee.

CHORUS 1: To God be the glory, to God be the glory,
To God be the glory for the things He has done.

CHORUS 2: With His blood He has saved me, with His power He has raised me,
To God be the glory for the things He has done.

BRIDGE: Just let me live my life, let it be pleasing, Lord, to Thee;
And should I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary.

Chorus 2. Chorus 1. Chorus 2.

The Prayers of the People, *ending with* The Lord’s Prayer

Many: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the Presence of Jesus Christ

Hymn — “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

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Invitation to the Table

Giving Thanks

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: Creator of the cosmos, Breath of heaven, Lover of us all,
you are our praise, our life, our joy.

You are there
through desert wanderings and willful murmurings,
rebellious running and tears of complaint.

You are there
when sorrow becomes our daily food;
you rescue us from ruin and anoint us with blessing.

Rising Sun, Soaring Spirit, Radiant Lord,
you are there
in stable and temple,
river and hillside,
cross and tomb
and even beyond the grave.
You are there in shining glory,
overcoming death and welcoming us to life.

You meet us in the breaking of bread,
you pour out the wine of salvation;
you feed us with grace and overwhelm us with love.

By your Spirit,
make these gifts
 your body and your blood.

By your Spirit,
make us one
 with you and with each other.

By your Spirit,
make us strong
 that we might share your love
 with your blessed and broken world.

Fount of mercy, Fire of justice, dearest Friend,
bind us to you and send us out
to seek and serve and sing your praise,
until you gather us up in glory
and bright, unending song.

Many: Amen.

Remembering the Stories & Sharing the Feast

The pastor will guide worshipers through the breaking of the bread and the sharing of communion.

An Open Table! When we celebrate Holy Communion we are all guests at the table, with Jesus himself as our host. We have not earned a place at the table, rather we are invited because of the amazing grace of God. For that reason, this celebration of the Holy Communion is open to all—including children—who wish to know the presence of Christ and the community of God’s people, and not merely members of this congregation or denomination. This is a *joyful* feast for *all* the people of God.

Prayer after Communion

**Many: Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence
in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal.**

**Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood
that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love
and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope
in an uncertain world;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

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Benediction

Postlude — “Praeludium in A Major,” BWV 536, by J. S. Bach

Dr. Patricia Snyder, organ

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!

Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven 511

1 Come, be - hold! the feast of heaven
 2 All is read - y, come at - tend Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 All who trust in God be - long
 4 As the Lord our God has willed,

has to mor - tal flesh been given.
 as the Lord's in - vit - ed friend; Al - le - lu - ia!
 at this ban - quet with this throng.
 here the hun - gry soul is filled;

Hear the Word of God de - clared:
 come from north, west, south, and east; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Share the mys - tic ho - ly food;
 here the wea - ry are re - freshed.

"Come! the ban - quet is pre - pared."
 cel - e - brate the joy - ful feast. Al - le - lu - ia!
 taste and see: the Lord is good.
 All who share God's feast are blessed.

Though rightly viewed as a meal of remembrance, the Lord's Supper is also an occasion of anticipation. This text draws on abundant biblical imagery to evoke the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to share the feast anew "in the kingdom of God" (Matthew 26:29/Mark 14:25/Luke 22:16).

Break Thou the Bread of Life 460

1 Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
2 Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, now un - to me,

as thou didst break the loaves be - side the sea.
as thou didst bless the bread by Gal - i - lee.

Be - yond the sa - cred page I seek thee, Lord.
Then shall all bond - age cease, all fet - ters fall.

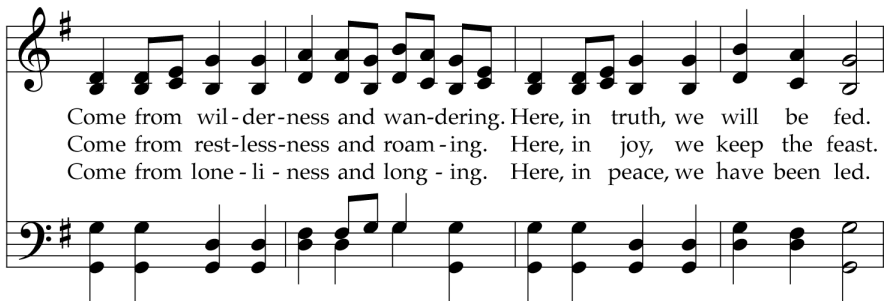
My spir - it pants for thee, O liv - ing Word!
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

The phrase "bread of life" as a metaphor for scripture has misled many people into thinking of this hymn as being connected with the Lord's Supper, when its true subject is Bible study. Both the author and the composer were active in the work of the Chautauqua Assembly.

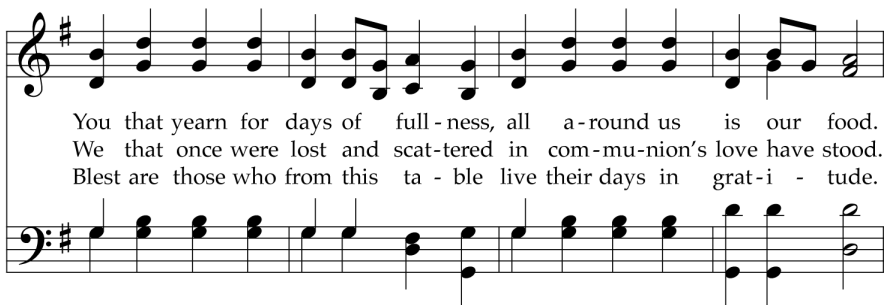
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly 509



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang - ers, seek - er, be a wel - come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



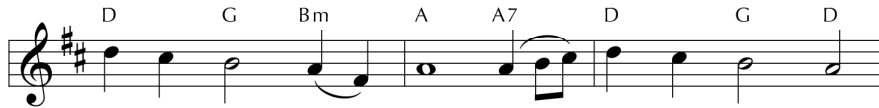
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

The United Church of Canada minister who wrote this text was introduced to shape note tunes at the 1990 Hymn Society conference in Charleston, South Carolina. Afterwards she vacationed with friends nearby and worked out this text while humming this tune as she walked up and down the beach.

817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The opening line here is essentially a quotation of 2 Corinthians 5:7, but that affirmation is fleshed out by references to the appearance of the risen Christ to Thomas (John 20:19–29). The shape note tune, named for a stream in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, adds resolution to the words.

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

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There are a number of ways you can make a financial contribution during this season of online-only worship services:

- **Mail:** You can mail your check or money order to us at the church office: Storrs Congregational Church UCC, 2 North Eagleville Rd., Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268.
- **Drop-off:** You can drop off cash, checks, or money orders at the church office during the week.
- **Online Bill Pay:** Most banks and credit unions offer an “online bill pay” function as part of their online account access website. All you need to do is set up the church as another payee in that system, and your bank or credit union will take care of printing a check and mailing it to us—you don’t even need to find a stamp! There is no cost, either to you or to the church, for using this option! Even better, you can set up your contribution as an “automatic” or “recurring” payment, so that your generosity keeps flowing even when matters slip your mind. Many SCC congregants (including our pastor) already contribute this way... feel free to join them!
- **Online or text via ACH debit from a checking or savings account:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can have *Realm*, our church management software, make an auto-debit from your checking or savings account. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 1% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 1% processing fee.)
- **Online or text via Debit Card or Credit Card:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can have *Realm*, our church management software, charge your contribution to a debit card or credit card. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 3% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 3% processing fee.) Please note, if using a *credit* card: we as a church do *not* want you to add to any debt load in order for you to contribute, as that’s not good stewardship for any of us! If using a *credit* card, please make sure for your own sake that it is a card for which you pay off the balance each month.

If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincsics (contact info available through the church office).

We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community. We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God's love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to *all*. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*We share in God's love by growing in faith,
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.*

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