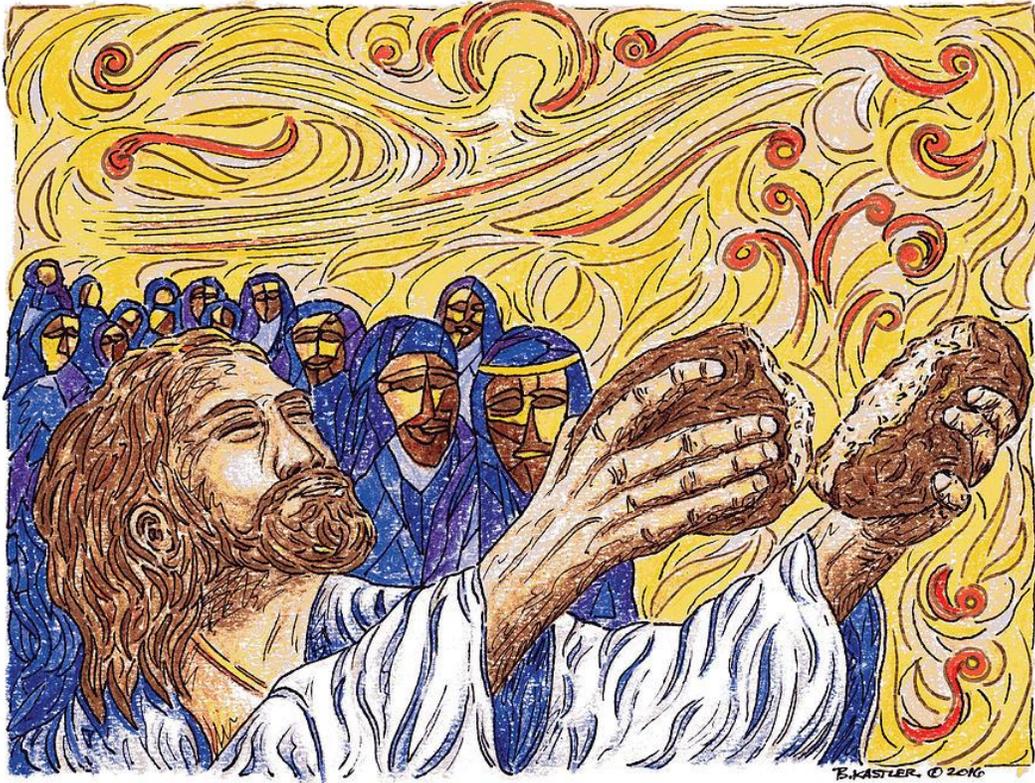


Bread of Life

September 5, 2021 – 10 a.m. – Communion Sunday
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship



Jesus, the Bread of Life

Sunday Worship online

Outdoor worship is on NFCC's Facebook page only.

Indoor worship is on NFCC's Facebook page and Zoom.

Preparing for Worship

For outdoor worship, please bring a chair and your coffee.

For indoor worship, please bring your mask.

Ministering to Us Today

Rev. Christina Williams and Barbara Rountree, Deacon, will be leading us in worship today. We are grateful to Babette Bach, Sarah Bach, and Chris Polloni for providing the music, and to our technical staff for the day. Thank you for ministering to us in these ways.

MEDITATION

"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."
–Mahatma Gandhi

WE GATHER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **C: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

"Bread of the World"

J.S.B. Hodges, arr. Lani Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

Barbara Rountree, Deacon

L: Blessed be the Lord of Heaven and Earth, who cleanses and heals our lives.

All: Praise be to God!

L: Blessed be the Holy One, who brings us from despair to hope.

All: Praise be to God!

L: Blessed be the Giver of Life, who nurtures and comforts us.

All: Praise be to God!

L: Blessed be the Bread of Life, who gives us sustenance for living each day.

All: We come this day to praise God with our whole hearts and souls! AMEN.

SONG FOR THE SEASON OF PENTECOST

"Lord, Prepare Me"

GTG #701

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary.

Pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving,

I'll be a living sanctuary for you. *(Repeat 2 times)*

UNISON OPENING PRAYER

Barbara Rountree, Deacon

God of forgiveness and new beginnings, feed our hearts with compassion and nourish our souls with the bread of heaven. As Jesus fed the hungry crowds, knowing that they needed both physical bread and the bread of heaven, fill us with your generous spirit and make us one with Christ. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"What is This Place"

GTG #404

You are invited to listen to the music.

What is this place where we are meeting?

Only a house, the earth its floor,
walls and a roof sheltering people,
windows for light, an open door.

Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered here,
and know our God is near.

And we accept bread at his table,
broken and shared, a living sign.
Here in this world, dying and living,
we are each other's bread and wine. This is the place
where we can receive what we need to increase:
God's justice and God's peace.

WE PROCLAIM

GOSPEL READING – John 6:25-35 – *Jesus, the bread of life*

Barbara Rountree, Deacon

The crowd found him on the other side of the lake. They asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” Jesus answered, “What I’m about to tell you is true. You are not looking for me because you saw the signs I did. You are looking for me because you ate the loaves until you were full. Do not work for food that spoils. Work for food that lasts forever. That is the food the Son of Man will give you. For God the Father has put his seal of approval on him.”

Then they asked him, “What does God want from us? What works does he want us to do?”

Jesus answered, “God’s work is to believe in the one he has sent.”

So they asked him, “What sign will you give us? What will you do so we can see it and believe you? Long ago our people ate the manna in the desert. It is written in Scripture, ‘The Lord gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

Jesus said to them, “What I’m about to tell you is true. It is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven. It is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. The bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven. He gives life to the world.”

“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

Then Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry. And whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

L: The liberating Word of God, for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTION

“Bread of Life”

Rev. Christina Williams

ANTHEM

“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”

Peter Scholtes

Soloist: Chris Polloni

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

SHARING OF THE MEAL

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy and gracious God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love. We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence. We accept you into our bodies and into our lives. Together, at this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we step into the new life you offer. In thanks, may we be lifted in joy by the life you have given to us in Christ. Amen.

WE RESPOND

JOYS & CONCERNS

For those online, you are invited to write the names of those you wish to lift in prayer and those joys you want to celebrate in the comments section. After a name(s) is spoken or when the pastor reads the names online, you are invited to respond, “O Lord, hear our prayer.”

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

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 of our daily bread, and forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, you both call us and confront us: the gifts we bring are only a small part of the multitude we receive from you. In the depth of our being, we know that in calling us, you seek our faith, our willingness, our conviction, and our very hearts. In gratitude, we offer our whole being to follow Jesus—bringing his hope and healing wherever we go. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH

CLOSING HYMN

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

GTG #267

You are invited to listen quietly as the music is played.

1 Come, Christians, join to sing
Alleluia! Amen!
loud praise to Christ we bring;
Alleluia! Amen!
let all, with heart and voice,
before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice.
Alleluia! Amen!

2 Come, lift your hearts on high,
Alleluia! Amen!
let praises fill the sky;
Alleluia! Amen!
Christ is our guide and friend
on whom we can depend:
his love shall never end.
Alleluia! Amen!

3 Praise yet our Christ again,
Alleluia! Amen!
life shall not end the strain;
Alleluia! Amen!
on heaven’s blissful shore,
his goodness we’ll adore,
singing forevermore,
Alleluia! Amen!

SENDING

P: Let us go now, to share God's strength.

All: We will do so by embracing the weakness of others.

P: Let us go now, to be as alert as Jesus.

All: We will do so by noticing the brokenness all around us.

P: Let us go now, to share the life of the Spirit.

All: We will do so by receiving the bread of life from the poor.

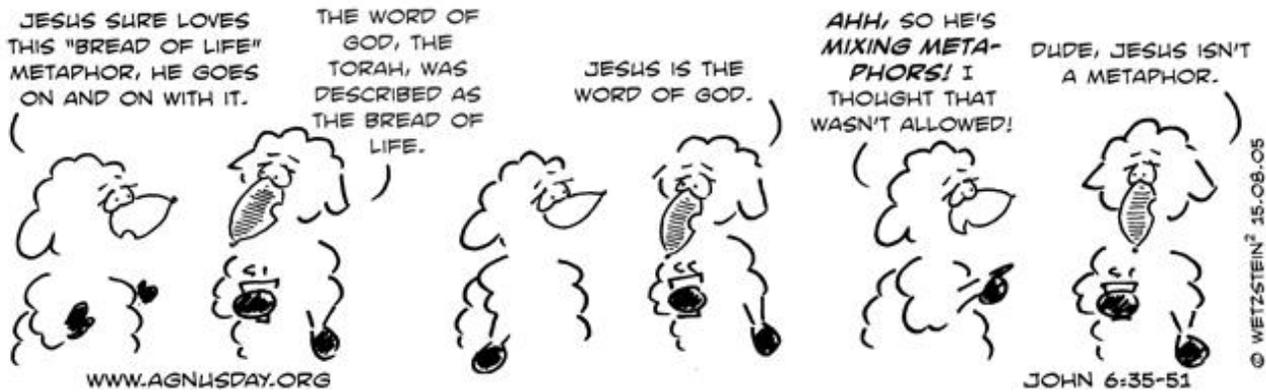
P: Go now, bearing with one another in love, in the unity of the Spirit, the bond of peace, and the name of Jesus, who is the Bread of Life.

POSTLUDE

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

a Spanish folk melody, arr. Lloyd Larson

BEFORE YOU GO: SOME HOLY HUMOR



The altar flowers today are from the garden of Barbara Rountree in loving memory of her sister Evelyn.