



Weekly Worship



Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

The world belongs to God

The earth and all its people

Let us worship God

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Acknowledging

As we gather, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and these waters. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging. As First and Second Peoples walking together, we commit ourselves to be people of the covenant, listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all.



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress

Singing: Lord of all hopefulness

TiS 613

OR: O God, our help in ages past TiS 47



Prayer

Come to us O God of surprising grace.

Break into the places in our lives

Which we think are not worthy of your entry, and show us the measure of your love for us.

Break through into newness

In all our life together, O God,

In the wonder of your transforming presence.

UiW 2193

Eternal God, you are the God of our ancestors as you were of Jacob, who wrestled with you and you blessed.

You are the God of our families and those who have gone before us in the church.

You are a God who sees needs and provides, much from little, feeding a crowd from one portion.

You are not a God of our making, but a God who leads, loves, provides for us and guides us.

You are the al-wise, all-compassionate God and we lift our hearts to you in worship.

Refresh our faith and restore our confidence as we confess that we have not always made love the guiding principle of our lives.

Forgive us for the times when we have been impatient and unkind, when we have thought only of ourselves.

Forgive us when we have been quick to take offence and not listened to other's stories.

Help us to be more compassionate, thoughtful and loving.

In Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen

Let us remember that through Christ, we are a loved and forgiven people.

Amen





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Passing the peace

May the Peace of God dwell with you:
and also with you.

Listening

Read: Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Matthew 14:13-21

For these words of faith
and for Jesus the Word

Thanks be to God.

Reflecting Rev Gospel Ralte

SUFFICIENCY - Matthew 14:13-21

The Insufficient life is what prevails in most of the world today. Lacking something is not uncommon to the majority of people. Insufficiency becomes a part of their life.

However, everyone desires to have a full life. When we are in the situation of lacking what we truly need, a worry, a wandering thought and insecure feeling confront us and could lead us to despair and hopelessness. In this situation what shall we do? Where shall we turn to for help? Let us look at the sufficiency of supply the crowds and the disciples of Jesus had experienced in the first century, and see what we can learn from it today.



In Matthew 14, the death of John the Baptist is recorded and leads to Jesus' withdrawal to a solitary place. Jesus' withdrawal was an act of a humanity, acknowledging his grief and knowing that he could become the next target. It was safe for Jesus to stay away from the public gathering. It is always painful and heartbreaking to hear the sad news about someone we love. Emotionally, Jesus needed a place where no one would disturb him. Being alone with his heavenly Father in a quiet place is the source of Jesus' spiritual strength. Usually, Jesus offered his time to meet and feed the crowds who came to seek him; having compassion on them Jesus healed their sickness. The miracle of healing and sharing the good news of fullness of life was Jesus' gift.

The teaching, the healing and the feeding happened at one place. The disciples were not to be blamed for their worry over the amount of food needed to feed such multitude of people. It was their weakness in failing to address their need first to their master. It was a challenging task they could have made known to their Lord, knowing their own inadequacy. Instead they asked their Master to send the crowds away to find their own meals. It was their blind spot to overlook who their master really was! It was their lack of faith, asking the wrong question.

Jesus neither rebuked nor blamed his disciples for asking to send the crowds away. In fact, Jesus knew and used the question the disciples asked in a miraculous performance, meeting the need of the gathering people. Now we see the nature of a good leader and his leadership in entrusting his disciples to provide the feast, and taking into account the apparent impossibility of the task, but using it to teach.

As a good leader, Jesus made a way to get his disciples involved in serving the community. Jesus taught them that a little portion of food, just five loaves of bread and two fish, when willingly shared with others could become the greatest means of sufficient provision.

Reflecting continues





Weekly Worship



Reflecting continues

Jesus' way of doing miracles involved others. The obedience and trust of the disciples are the channels of sufficient supply. When asked, the disciples brought all they had, a meal just enough for a person, to Jesus. Jesus blessed what they brought to him. The miraculous multiplication of the food was passed to others by the hands of the disciples. A bread or a fish begets another bread and fish on the distributing hands of each disciple. Wonderful!

Only a relationship with God provides fullness of life, the disciples learn the wonder of this in the story. We have this fullness, let us rejoice in it and share it. Let us bring what we have to the Lord and get involved in his sufficient blessings in serving the community for God's glory.

Affirmation of faith

We are not alone (Uniting in Worship 2)

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

(from The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968)





Weekly Worship



Sunday August 6, 2023

Singing: Let us talents ... TiS 537

OR: Feed us now, bread of life TiS 538

OR: Let us break bread together on our knees, TiS 511

Offering

Knowing that each member of Christ's body contributes to the whole, we bring our gifts as we share in the unity and diversity of Christ.

UiW2 270

Amen

Notices

Today we remember the destruction of Hiroshima by atomic bomb in 1945.

August 9th is the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Also we remember the destruction of Nagasaki by atomic bomb in 1945.

August 12th is International Youth Day - [International Youth Day | United Nations For Youth](#)

Prayers for World & Community

We come to you today, Loving Creator as we remember the destruction that people inflicted on others as they dropped the atomic bombs, we pray for those leaders who still see people as collateral damage and not as individual creations, made in your image, whom you love. Help us do what we can to hold leaders to account and do what is just and right.

We pray for peace in our world.

We pray for those who do not have the experience of fullness of life, who live with a constant hunger for something more. Our world is a place where people live insufficient lives.

We pray for those who hunger for food and fullness of life.

Give us a voice to call out injustice, to voice the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves. We are blessed with abundant resources, help us to be always willing to share.

We pray for justice in our world.

We pray for those on the edges of society, for those we find it hard to love, for those who are different and don't fit in, for those with mental illness and addictions.

We pray that we may be generous in our love.

We pray for those who are sick, with long term pain and disease, we name in our hearts those we know.....

We pray for those who grieve, who find it hard to continue life without loved ones.

We pray for those who are lonely, may they remember that they are never alone.

We pray together then as Jesus taught us:

Prayer continues





Weekly Worship



Prayer continues

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Singing: Shout for joy!

TiS 545

OR: How firm a foundation TiS 578

Blessing

Let our steps hold fast to your path,
May our words always honour you
May our hearts rejoice in your love.

Let us bring what we have to the Lord and get
involved in his sufficient blessings in serving the
community for God's glory.

In the name of God, Creator, Redeemer and
Sustainer

Amen

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