



# 'Worship at home' Sunday August 6<sup>th</sup> 2023

We come to worship God,  
who we find in the holy spaces  
and the ordinary places of our lives,  
and in whom we find we are always enough.

As you come to worship, you might bring  
some **scissors** and a **piece of paper**  
as an aid to prayer.



## Opening

We hunger and thirst, not knowing what we are seeking.  
We ache and yearn for more, yet find ourselves discontent.  
We know that of ourselves, we have little to give.  
Let us bring our unsatisfied longings  
and our deepest yearnings  
to find fulfillment and wholeness in God,  
whose love and provision  
is always more than enough.



## Matthew 14:13-21

*When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and*

*buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to 1*

the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces

that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.  
*New International Version*

### **In Christ, we find more than enough!**

*Twelve baskets left over from a meal of just five fish and two loaves shared among thousands? That takes some swallowing!*

*Yet, I must admit when He's around there's always more than enough of something!*

*We don't always get what we expect; but like that God-in-a-stable thing, it's much more than enough!*

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### **Reflection**

Twelve baskets left over from a meal of just five fish and two loaves shared among thousands. Whatever our needs, whatever the depths of our pain or longing, whatever the extent of our joy and hope, in Christ we find more than enough.



This Scripture story occurs at a time when Jesus was tired and grieving, having just been told of John the Baptist's beheading. He wanted to be by himself to pray. However, the people followed, and Jesus, despite his weariness, responded with compassion and love.

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Jesus said to them

**I AM THE  
BREAD OF LIFE**

He who comes to me  
will not hunger and  
He who believes in me  
will never thirst.

John 6:35



**When have you felt you had nothing to give, but found the strength to keep going?**

When we bring our deepest needs to Christ, and open ourselves to God's Spirit working in our lives, we find abundant grace, strength and wholeness. In Christ, we find more than enough.

When the people were hungry, all they could find were five loaves and two fish. This would never be enough for all those people.

**When have you felt that who you are and what you offer are inadequate for the task ahead of you?**

Jesus broke the bread with thanks and trust in God's gracious provision, and there was more than enough.

**Five loaves and two fish are never enough until you start giving it away.**

*- Rev. Karla Miller A Place for Prayer <https://revgalblogpals.org>*

When we are in need, feel threatened, or are concerned for our future, we may be tempted to hoard what we have. We stockpile all that we deem essential, trying to ensure we have what we need to make it through. But our own resources and strength are often insufficient.

When we share what we have, when we show compassion and love, when we are generous in our hospitality, when we give thanks and trust in God's gracious provision, we find there is more than enough.

**Prayer activity**

Reflect on people or situations in need of more:  
more food, resources, love, peace, healing.

Take your piece of paper:  
how many corners are there?

Cut off a corner and lay it in front of you as you name out loud and pray for one of these people or situations.

How many corners are there to your paper now?

**Sometimes, the more we give,  
the more we have to give.**

Continue cutting off corners, and for each one name out loud a person or situation in need.

Note how the corners multiply.

**When God provides, there is always more than enough. 3**



## The Lord's Prayer

Our father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
And the glory are Yours.  
Now and for ever.  
Amen.



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When we pray the Lord's prayer, we are reminded that although our faith is deeply personal, it is also shared and communal.

When we pray, "**Give us today our daily bread,**" our prayer is that there be enough sustenance for each of us for a whole and healthy life. This also reminds us that we take some responsibility for that, as we give to others so that they too receive what they need.

***Dear God, remind me to share whatever is in my basket today. You will do the rest. Amen.***

~ Rev. Karla Miller

A Place for Prayer <http://revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca/>

**"God doesn't give us just enough.  
God gives us more than enough:  
more bread and fish than we can eat,  
more love than we dared to ask for."**

— Henri J.M. Nouwen

## Closing

This week, you are invited to give to someone in need. This might be food to an emergency shelter, second-hand clothes to an Op-Shop, or a donation to a charity. As you do so, pray that what you give will be multiplied in love and used to bring hope to that situation.

