

## **Call to worship**

Come for the water of refreshment  
all who are thirsty.  
Come hear the word of God  
all who yearn for life.  
Come and be blessed by the God  
who loves faithfully and eternally.  
Come and be fed by Jesus Christ,  
our friend and redeemer.

After our opening hymn we are going to be watching our video bible story followed by the video  
Janine has put together of your baking pics!

**Praise:** Let us build a house where love can dwell  
Let us build a house  
Where love can dwell  
And all can safely live,  
A place where  
Saints and children tell  
How hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
And words are strong and true,  
Where all God's children dare to seek  
To dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
And a symbol of God's grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Let us build a house where love is found  
In water, wine and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground,  
Where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
Is revealed in time and space;  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

*Chorus: All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.*

## **Video Bible Story**

### **Baking pics video**

**Praise:** Everywhere around me

Prayer / Lord's Prayer  
Lord Jesus, your heart went out to the crowd  
when you saw their need.

We bring to you this morning our hunger,  
our longing for healing,  
our yearning to understand the Scriptures  
and to hear you speak to us.

Meet us wherever we are.  
Embrace us, receive our praise  
and the best of all we can offer.

Strengthen us individually and together,  
that we might reflect your compassion  
reaching out to those places and those people  
who are hurting, and sad, and lonely.

God of abundance, forgive us when we send others away to buy what we could give;  
forgive us when we are afraid to offer our resources because they feel too meagre,  
or we are worried that there won't be enough left for us.  
Forgive us, and bless us with your compassion and your generosity.

Generous God, you give us so much.  
Thank you for the food we eat.  
Thank you for our homes and families.

Thank you for our friends.  
Thank you for the opportunity we have to share your generosity to us with the work of the church  
In our regular financial giving.  
Most of all, thank you for your love. Amen

**Reading:** Matthew 14:13 – 21

**Message:** "The big feed!"

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand takes place at a rather difficult time in the ministry of Jesus. In the previous chapter we read about the murder of John, and there can be no doubt that Jesus was deeply moved by the loss of this great prophet.

Added to this was the fact that both he and his disciples were shattered. They had been on the go for a long time with little respite, and they needed some peace and quiet.

So they withdrew to the hills surrounding the lake, hoping that there there might be the opportunity for prayer and reflection on all that had been happening. But it was not to be. Another need had arisen, and Jesus was about to demonstrate his solution to that need in one of the most spectacular ways ever recorded in scripture.

The story started in a young lad's bedroom in a village not far from Galilee. As he lay in his bed that morning, he mulled over how his day might possibly turn out. After breakfast he would take a packed lunch and head towards the lake and maybe watch the fisherman for a while before catching up with his friends in the afternoon for a game or two.

After playing with them they would share their packed lunches before heading back home. Enough dreaming - the sun was shining, the birds were chirping and the day was beginning and he didn't want to miss a single moment of it.

When he got down stairs his mum had already sorted his breakfast and was busy packing his small lunch box - smoked fish and some bread rolls - great! Without further ado he was on his way, heading down the pathway out of the village towards the lake.

He hadn't been walking a particularly long way when he heard what sounded like a large group of people shouting at the tops of their voices. He reached the top of the hill and there they were, thousands of people walking slowly up the hillside towards him!

He decided to join them and find out where they might be heading. After what seemed like hours a few of the men beckoned to the crowd to stop and sit down where they were. He did the same, wondering what was going to happen next.

He then noticed the men circulating amongst the crowd and it seemed as if they were asking them questions. Then one of them came up to him and asked him if he might share his lunch.

At first he hesitated, but then someone said, "Don't worry lad, the master will sort it". Being somewhat reluctant to let the package go, the man asked him to come with him to see Jesus. Up he got and followed the man through the sprawling bodies until they reached the master.

What happened next would give him something to tell his mother that she would probably never believe when he got home that night.

What was about to happen on that hill might never have happened if it had been left up to the disciples. Their immediate response to the problem was to send the crowds away. Sounds like a perfectly acceptable idea when you've had the kind of day that Jesus and his disciples had just had. But Jesus had other ideas.

He wanted to teach them a lesson in faith and surrender. A little boys lunch provided the materials he required, and the rest is history. Or is it? I believe that in the same way that Jesus taught his disciples that day, he wants to teach us as well. Three very important issues here.

1. Start with what you have. God starts where we are and uses what we have. Each one of us feels inadequate to the task from time to time. A challenge is put before us and how often do we throw up our hands in horror and resignation and say, "I can't, I'm not equipped, you can't be serious Lord!"

We've all been there haven't we, feeling totally inadequate to the task before us. However there have been those occasions where we have grasped the nettle, made ourselves available, faced the problem head on and became part of the solution. God never expects more of us than we are able to give. So give what you have.

2. The next step is a step which many people have the most difficulty with - handing it over. Jesus took that simple lunch, blessed it and shared it. In the hands of that small boy it was just enough to fill his tummy. In the hands of the master it turned into enough to feed 5000 hungry mouths. The miracle of multiplication was in his hands.

"Little is much if God is in it." How often do we wonder why things don't happen in our spiritual lives or when it comes to renewal and growth in the church. Could it possibly be that we so often display an unwillingness to hand over and surrender our lives, our work, our church, our friends into his hands?

3. The next step is to obey what He commands. The disciples had the people sit down as Jesus ordered. They took the broken pieces and distributed them, and discovered there was plenty for everybody. These days it doesn't appear to be popular to be obedient and follow commands.

One of the greatest lessons I learnt in my military experience was if you want to make sure you were going to be looked after, obey the commands. To go ahead and do you own thing in a military context is not a good idea.

The same applies to our faith. God has given us instructions in this book for a reason - not just to refer to from time to time so that we appear religious. He has given us this book as a manual for life.

If we give what we have to him, if we follow his precepts and his calling on each of our lives, he will honour and bless that calling and give it back to us for use in feeding others.

He couldn't wait to get back home that night to tell his mother what had happened. The moment the front door opened the story came gushing out - "They took my lunch mum, Jesus took my lunch and fed thousands of people - it was amazing".

She opened his lunch box clean it out. She poured the mountain of scraps onto the table in disbelief. "Amazing, she whispered, you can say that again".

**Praise:** Behold the lamb

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,  
Slain for us: and we remember:  
The promise made that all who come in faith  
Find forgiveness at the cross.  
So we share in this Bread of life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of peace  
Around the table of the King.  
The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ,  
Torn for you: eat and remember  
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,  
Paid the price to make us one.  
So we share in this Bread of Life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of love  
Around the table of the King.  
The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,  
Shed for you: drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may enter in  
To receive the life of God.  
So we share in this Bread of Life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of grace  
Around the table of the King.  
And so with thankfulness and faith  
We rise to respond: and to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ  
As His body here on earth.  
As we share in His suffering,  
We proclaim: Christ will come again!  
And we'll join in the feast of heaven  
Around the table of the King.

**Communion:**

Prayers of Intercession

If we're honest, compassion does not come easy to us, God;  
We see others who struggle;  
those without homes, or food;

those dying from curable diseases, simply because  
they can't get access to the medicine they need;  
those who have lost loved ones through death or circumstance,  
and long for human companionship;  
those who are persecuted and judged because of their difference;  
those who are facing the awful consequences  
of bad choices they have made;  
and those who must live with the consequences  
of choices that others make that impact their lives;  
It all just feels like it's too much, and there's nothing we can do.

But, we know that's not true – we know that compassion is enough;  
that when we allow ourselves to feel,  
compassion will lead us to do what we can,  
and that this will make a difference.

And so, we pray first for ourselves:  
that you would soften our hearts,  
and still our fears,  
and lead us into those acts of compassion  
that we are capable of doing.

And then we pray for all of these others  
whose lives can be changed  
through small, simple acts of care;  
that you would disturb us, and others like us,  
until we finally step up and play our part  
in the saving of your world;  
and that enough of us would answer your call,  
that the needs of the hurting ones  
may be met.

In Jesus' Name,  
Amen.

**Praise:** Guide me

1. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven,  
Feed me now and evermore;  
Bread of heaven,  
Feed me now and evermore.

2. Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing waters flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer,  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.  
Strong Deliverer,  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee;  
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee.

### **Benediction**