

Resources needed:

Essential

- picture for the week for each person
- Copies of the words of the hymn & prayers
 - A loaf of bread (big enough that everyone can have a piece and there be some left over)
 - candles/ flowers
 - bowl of water

Optional

- ppt file including picture to project

Storms and Picnics Week 4

Call to worship:

In the breaking of bread we are known and we know
in the eating of bread we are fed for our journey
In the sharing of bread we become one family
in giving bread to others we act as God's people
So, as bread and Word are broken,
may we receive from God's hands and each others' hands
and may we give to each other, God and the world
that all may be fed, and find life in abundance.

Hymn StF 28 Jesus calls us here to meet him

Psalm 34

What are we carrying?

As the crowds that followed Jesus
brought their hopes and dreams,
joys and sorrows,
their struggles and preoccupations.
So we come to worship
with our minds and memories full of the past week and beyond,
and our minds and imaginations already looking to tomorrow and further planning,
worrying and hoping.
Let us bring all we are,
all we have been
and all we will be as we offer our prayers to God:
our wonder and praise;
our recognition of past wrongs;
and all that we bring with us

Prayer of adoration

God of all times and all places
and of this time and this place
we praise you for the glimpses of your glory we have seen this week
for your eternal presence in creation and beyond it,
for the times when we've been aware of your presence
and for those when your love has surrounded us
even though we did not recognise it.
for all that you are
and for all that you have made
we praise you

God of all times and all places
made human in Jesus, in one time and place
we praise you for the glimpses of your glory in in Jesus
for his life lived among us
for his death, resurrection and ascension
leading us to abundant life
for all that you are
and for all that you have done and are doing
we praise you

God of all times and all places but beyond time and space
we praise you for the glimpses of your glory
we are given through your Holy Spirit.
As we worship, may that Spirit inspire and guide us
that we may worship in spirit and in truth
for all that you are
for all you will do
we praise you
Amen

Prayer of confession (this or some other prayer of confession)

In silence we call to mind our sins

Silence

I confess to God and to you
that I have sinned in thought, word and deed;
may God have mercy on me.

**May God grant you pardon,
forgiveness of all your sins,
time to amend your life,
and the grace and comfort of his Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Silence

**We confess to you
that we have sinned in thought and word and deed;
may God have mercy on us.**

May God grant you pardon,
forgiveness of all your sins,
time to amend your life,
and the grace and comfort of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn StF 499 Great God, your love has called us here

Reading Isaiah 55:1-9

Introduction to the reading

John's Gospel - the story so far...

The beautiful hymn to the Word that begins John's Gospel invites us into the mystery of who Jesus is, asking us first to come and see, to dip our toes into the water's edge and then enticing us deeper until we are immersed in the life of the Gospel, Jesus and God. It has been described as 'a magic pool in which an elephant may swim and an infant paddle.'

Last week we talked about

how the Gospel begins with that hymn to Word and Light
and the story of John the Baptist and the calling of disciples
and how Jesus' ministry of signs begins with changing water into wine, prompted by his mother.

This is followed by a trip to Jerusalem where Jesus drives traders from the Temple and has a night time conversation with a Pharisee, Nicodemus
on his way back to Galilee Jesus has a conversation with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well

and in Galilee he heals an official's son

Back in Jerusalem he heals a man by the Pool of Bethesda and has an argument about working on the Sabbath

In our first week we heard the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 in Galilee which finishes with Jesus withdrawing to be alone...

then in the second week we read the mysterious story of the night journey across the lake, the storm, and Jesus walking on the water to join the disciples and bring peace.

Today we join Jesus on the other side of the lake as we did last week and continue the debate about the Bread of Life...

As we read try to imagine the story as if you are hearing it for the first time

Reading John 6:35-51

Time to Reflect

Take a moment to allow the story to sink in...

If you were to place yourself in the story where would you be?

Would you be a member of the crowd still searching for Jesus so he could give you more bread?

Would you be one of the disciples terrified in the boat?

How do you feel? What jumps out at you?

Depending on your congregation you could leave a minute or so silence to allow people to think or you could ask people to have a conversation with their neighbour (allow 2-3 minutes only)

Hymn StF 588 I come with joy, a child of God

Sermon(see sermon file)



Where Is Bread?

ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7 D ("God Is Here!")

**"Where is bread?" the great crowd murmured —
Thousands strong, yet all in need.**

**"Where is bread?" your people wondered,
Faced with such a crowd to feed.**

Who, Lord Jesus, could have guessed it?

One small boy brought food to share.

Taking what he gave, you blessed it;

All were fed, with much to spare.

**Where is bread? We know their yearning;
Every day, we wish for more.
God, in time, we're slowly learning:
All we own can make us poor.
Our possessions can possess us,
Leaving hunger deep inside.
Christ our Bread, come now and bless us;
At your feast, we're satisfied.**

**"Where is bread?" the call is rising;
Millions cry who must be fed.
God, your answer seems surprising:
"You, my Church, you give them bread."
Bread to fill each hungry spirit,
Bread for hungry stomachs, too!
Give us bread and help us share it.
Richly blest, may we serve you.**

Biblical References: John 6:1-15; Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17 Tune: Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941 ("God Is Here!") Text: Copyright © 2000 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Prayers

Prayer of Thanksgiving

This could be done by people coming forward to float lit candles or flower heads in a bowl of water.

Alternatively you could have silence before the prayer in which people are encouraged to think of their own thanksgivings

We say together

**God of abundant meadows and full baskets
we thank you for your gifts to us,
for your abundant life which fills our lives, our world and our universe.
May our eyes be opened
so that we can see your abundance in our lives
and in the life of the world.
May our hands be opened
so we may receive your plenty from others and share your generosity with
others**

**In the name of God,
Eternal, Son and Spirit we pray Amen**

Prayer of Intercession

God of stormy seas and calm shorelines
who heard the cry of your enslaved people
and led them to freedom through a parted sea
who heard the cry of your people
in the roar of the storm and brought peace

hear our prayers
and let our cries come to you.

We pray for the needs of this world
for those enslaved by fear, terror, war, poverty, hunger, oppression
for those crying out for freedom, justice, food for their children and themselves,
peace and life in all its fullness

Silence

hear our prayers
and let our cries come to you.

We pray for the church throughout the world,
for our circuit, & for this church that we may live in God's life
for all who are seeking life in its fullness
for all crying out to hear, feel and know God's love
Silence

hear our prayers
and let our cries come to you.

We pray for those who are in need
those who are ill and those who care for them and worry about them
those who face difficult decisions and those who cannot see a way forward
those who are grieving and those who sit with them

Silence

hear our prayers
and let our cries come to you.

We bring these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus
who taught us when we pray to say

The Lords Prayer

Offering, and Dedication

Hymn StF 465 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Blessing

As we leave we receive bread,
a sign of God's abundance and plenty
to feed us as we live as God's people in the coming week.
Go into the world
to feed those who are hungry,
weep with those who grieve and bring healing and hope.
Go into the world
to see God's abundant life wherever you go
and in whoever you meet
and to share God's abundant life wherever you go
and in whoever you meet
And may the blessing of God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you now and always Amen