



Sunday 15th August 2021

Dear friends,
If you have the Internet, you will find a video to accompany this sheet on YouTube from Sunday morning – search for Isle of Man Methodist Church and you will find it on our YouTube channel.

Our prayers are with you all,

Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team

Call to Worship

As we come to worship, are we hungry for God
or satisfied by all the comforts of our life?

As we hear God's word, do we want to be fed
or have we had enough?

Jesus invites us to feast with him:

let us come, for all is ready.

Opening Prayer

Thank you, generous Creator God for filling the earth
with good things for all to share.

Forgive us for our selfishness and greed.

Lord Jesus, Bread of Life, we hunger for you.

Come live in us, feed us, fill us, and sustain us.

Only you can satisfy the yearning within us.
Holy Spirit feed and nourish us today through your
living Word, that we may grow more like Jesus.
Amen.

The Breakthrough Prayer

God of love, God for all,
your purposes are more beautiful than we can
possibly imagine.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit.
Help us let go of all that holds us back.
Open our lives and our churches to new seasons of
humility and faith, of change and growth.
Shake us up with the Good News of Jesus and show
us the way. Amen

Hymn: Be Thou my Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my whole Armour, be Thou my true Might;
Be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tower,
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my
power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
O high King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys, after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Mary Byrne

Today's Reading: JOHN 6 51-58

Although this week's passage contains many vivid
images, they are rather difficult and challenging ones.
The following dialogue between the Bible text and a
commentary on it is designed to help. You will need a
Bible narrator and someone to read the commentary.

John 6.v51)

Reflect: How can we hear today's Gospel passage not
as an instruction for cannibalism, but as an invitation
to get as close to Jesus as our breath is to our lungs?

John 6 v.52)

Reflect: : John has already given us a description of
Jesus' nature in the opening verses of his Gospel: 'In
the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning
with God. All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.'

John 6v.53-55)

Reflect: : Jesus, the Son of God, in human, physical
form, is the incarnation of the Word. His 'flesh' that
he offers as food is the very Word of God (which was
in the beginning), the life-giving Good News. His
'blood', offered as drink, is life (through which all
things came into being), which he will give up to open
eternal life to those who believe. His flesh and his
blood: Word and Life.

John v.56-57)

Reflect: : Jesus' Word is true food and his Life is true
drink. He lives in those who take in his Word and
absorb his Life, and they live in him. And they
become part of the mission, the work of God that
Jesus was sent to do.

John 6 v.58)

Reflect: : For ever and ever. Amen.

A time of reflection

These few verses come just after the feeding of the 5000.

Jesus miraculously had fed the crowd with bread and now he was saying that he was “the bread of life, the living bread, this bread is my flesh,” He said, “which I will give for the life of this world.”

Those listening had difficulty understanding and thought quite literally in a cannibalistic way and could not accept what Jesus was saying.

They were willing to be fed physically by Him and observe the miracles done by Him, - but to be truly affected and changed inside by Him was a different matter.

They wanted to observe or watch, - I suppose it was the latest entertainment of the day, but they didn't want to be a player.

Perhaps you have watched someone play with a play station, Nintendo Wii or other games console maybe you play or are you just a watcher from the sidelines?

If you are a watcher do you understand how the players manage to interact with the game and achieve the things they do?

I'm afraid I don't, - but whenever I picked up the hand set, - I always have to many “**experts**” trying to tell me what to do and how to play without letting me learn for myself.

Because we don't understand the game, no matter whether it is a board game or the latest electronic game or gadget, until we know the rules to play by we often feel excluded from experiencing the game. Those watching and not understanding just what Jesus meant by eating His flesh, also felt excluded from a full encounter with Jesus.

Jesus doesn't want us to rip parts of Him off and eat him, - but He wants us to take Him within ourselves so that He can be a real part of our everyday lives.

He wants to be more than just a nodding acquaintance, when we feel like picking up a game or when we are in trouble.

Perhaps we sometimes feel as if we are faith watchers rather than faith believers?

If so, - then we all have to ask ourselves how are we feeding our spiritual lives?

Do we rely on the snack we have on a Sunday, - from our worship or do we explore other ways of nourishing our souls for ourselves, - with our own personal relationship with the living bread Jesus.

To feed on Jesus, - we need to spend time reading about His life exploring the Bible and praying to Him - for ourselves.

We spend time getting to know our closest friends, - we seek them out when we have news, - good or bad to share and when we have problems to solve, and in true friendships it works both ways.

The same with our spiritual friend Jesus, -- he wants a two-way relationship with us all.

I'm sure many of us have had or witnessed friendships that are one sided when one friend seems to do all the supporting, - is that how we want to be spiritually with Jesus.

He wants us all to be fully nourished and in a meaningful relationship with Him

Hymn : Seek ye First

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia

2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.

Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia

3 Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia

Karen Lafferty

Prayers

O Living Bread, we pray for those around the world who are hungry who do not have enough to live on or feed their families. Forgive us that we waste so much. Transform the way we live and give us generous hearts to share with those in need.

We pray for those who are spiritually hungry and do not know the love of Jesus. Forgive us for not sharing you with others. Transform the way live out our faith and give us a generous spirit to share your love in all we say and do.

We pray for those whose lives feel empty when inner hunger causes them to seek satisfaction in harmful ways. Forgive us for ignoring the social needs around us. Transform the way we live in our communities and open our eyes and our hearts to those in need of your love.

O Bread of Life feed our hungry world. Amen

A prayer of blessing

May Jesus the living bread,
send us out to feed others,
Filling us with His Holy Spirit,
guiding us as we share His life with others.
Amen.

