



# Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

This Sunday we will focus on Jesus as “The bread of life”. We all know about physical hunger and Sunday we will spend time in worship satisfying our spiritual hunger.

We celebrate that members of Macedonia Christian Church have been joining us for worship. May God bless their ministry and the ministry of all churches during these challenging days.

If you have not had the opportunity to join us for worship, I encourage you to do so this Sunday. The following phone numbers are the ones to dial between 10:15am and 10:30am:

1-312-626-6799 or  
1-346-248-7799

And when prompted for a Meeting ID enter:  
867 5713 3623 #

I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday as we celebrate Jesus as “the bread of life”. Remember, you are what you eat. May we feed our souls with the love of Jesus – the bread of life.

You are special to me.

God Bless You, Edd

# Valley Christian Church

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

### PRELUDE

*“Fill My Cup, Lord”*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
People: We want to be filled with the bread of heaven.  
Leader: Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
People: We have come to give thanks for the many blessings of life, and to confess our sins, to hear the scriptures being read and proclaimed, and to partake of the bread and of the cup.  
Leader: Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
People: We are here to worship the bread of life.

### HYMN

*“Break Thou the Bread of Life”*

*Break Thou the Bread of Life, Dear Lord, to me,  
As Thou didst break the loaves Beside the sea;  
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord;  
My spirit pants for Thee, O Living Word.*

*Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me,  
As Thou didst bless the bread By Galilee;  
Then shall all bondage cease, All fetters fall,  
And I shall find my peace, My All in all.*

*O send Thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,  
Touch now my longing eyes that I may see  
Give me to eat and live with Thee above,  
Teach me to love Thy truth, for Thou art love.*

### INVOCATION

Bread of life, we pray that you will come and meet us in our homes. Offer us the gift of your presence. Show us how we can be fully satisfied by you. Feed us until we hunger no more. Through Jesus, the bread of life, we pray. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE

*John 6:1-15; 47-51*

### MEDITATION

*“I am the Bread of Life”*  
See Insert for Meditation

### HYMN

*“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”*

*All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wandering. Here in truth we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

*All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread. Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been led. Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER

We are so hungry, Lord God. We drive through McDonald’s in search of a meal that will fill our hunger. We grab a few potato chips, hoping they will tide us over until dinnertime. We rush around putting so much stuff in our bodies, and we wonder why we still are not satisfied.

We pray today that you would show us how to find real contentment, peace and satisfaction. Help us to find the time and discipline needed to feast on your word. Show us how you offer us just enough bread for this day. And help us not to take more than our fair share, but only what we really need.

We praise you for the foretaste you offer us of the great heavenly banquet that is to come. As we prepare to come to the tables in our homes today, we pray that you will help us to truly remember – your Son who is the bread of life. Help us to remember His love, His sacrifice, His death and His resurrection as we seek to be in communion with you. May this worship and our holy communion be bread for our journey in this new week of life. We offer this prayer in the name of your Son, the bread of life. Amen.

**CALL TO  
COMMUNION**

Lord, we bring to you the needs of our lives and needs of our world. We come as hungry beggars desiring food. As we receive the bread and cup today, make us aware of your presence, which satisfies as the world cannot.

**COMMUNION  
HYMN**

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

*Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.*

*When I fall on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees.*

*When I fall on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

**COMMUNION  
PRAYER**

Pray together the Lord's Prayer

**HOLY  
COMMUNION**

Partake of the holy communion  
(Bread, juice or whatever is available to you)

**WORDS OF  
INSTITUTION**

Hear the words of Jesus when he said, "Take eat and take drink."

**SHARING OUR  
OFFERING  
WITH GOD**

Share your church offering with the church by mail.  
Thank you for your love gifts.

**OFFERTORY  
PRAYER**

For all your good gifts, we give thanks, O God. We return what we can as best as we can in hopes that our offering will contribute to changing the world for the better. Transform this offering into ministry that matters to those who need it most. Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

May God the creator, restore your soul. May Christ, the bread of life, feed you with His love. May the Holy Spirit fill your cup to overflowing. And may you dwell with God forever. Amen



Christ...

BORE OUR SINS IN HIS  
OWN BODY ON THE TREE.

MEDITATION  
Sunday, May 17, 2020

“I am the Bread of Life”

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.” It is important that we understand what was happening, when Jesus made this statement.

By the shores of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus had shared the miracle of feeding five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish. The people thought it was a wonderful thing.

The next day Jesus was preaching nearby at the synagogue at Capernaum. The people there were asking Him to give them another miraculous meal.

Jesus answered their request by saying that the miracle of feeding them was for the purpose of those who had eaten to have faith in Him. The people responded, “But you did it only once. Moses fed our people in the wilderness for forty years with manna from heaven. If you want to be considered greater than Moses, you must give us more than one meal.”

Our Lord turned from the physical to the spiritual. He said to the people, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread he shall live forever.” (John 6:51)

I think we can best understand these words of Jesus, if we consider it in terms of what He did not say. First, Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. I am the living bread.” He did not say, “I am the cake of life.”

I am one who loves cake. Just this past Tuesday I celebrated my birthday with a delicious chocolate cake.

But the fact is that everyone can live without cake. Yet in Jesus’ day you could not live without bread. Cake is a luxury in life while bread is an essential to live.

(over)

Therefore, Jesus was saying, “As bread is necessary to sustain the body, so I am essential to sustain the soul. I am the bread of life.” Jesus is not a luxury in life. He is the essential of life. He is necessary for our spiritual growth. Jesus is the living bread that feeds the soul.

Second, Jesus is not the cake of life. And He is not the medicine of life.

Medicine is a food for the body.. It often does not taste good. Unlike cake, we do not take medicine because we enjoy it. But medicine is often necessary. It can save our lives. It can make us healthy.

And some people then believe that Jesus is the medicine of the world. The come to him only when they are sick or in need. They come to Jesus only when everything else has failed.

This is not what Jesus had in mind. He is the bread of life. As we pray in the Lord’s Prayer, “Give us this day our daily bread”, He is the daily and regular food of the soul. We are to feed upon Him.

Bread is the common answer to a common need. Most of us don’t have to told when we need bread. Hunger is a very nagging feeling. A hungry, starving person doesn’t have to be told that he needs bread.

But when it comes to spiritual hunger, we need to be told. God needs to show us that we are spiritually hungry, that we need His bread in Jesus who is the bread of life.

That is what Jesus is saying to us this morning. Come to me for I am the bread of life. I can satisfy the hunger of your soul.

So the question comes to all of us – what are we eating? Is there an eternal nourishment in our diet? Are we feeding on the bread of life – Jesus?

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