

Bread of Life - Nourish our spirits
Rev. Karen Millard
Squamish United Church

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World Wide Communion

PSALMS 133

John 6:32-40

1 Corinthians 12:12-13; 27

Ephesians 2: 19-22; 4:4-6

In last weeks scriptures Jesus found his disciples segregating people for not being one of them. World Wide Communion reminds us that we are called to unity with all. I think for many it is often other Christians that we can struggle with the most, members of parts of the body of Christ. Whether from another church or denomination or sitting next to us in the pew we expect them to get it right like we do, as if we have it all figure out.

Remember last week we read that just after arguing about who among them was the greatest (Mark 9:33–37), and just before James and John ask Jesus for positions of glory (10:35–45), Mark writes that the disciples saw an anonymous healer cast out demons in Jesus' name. This person was unknown to them, and so was probably peripheral to the Jesus movement. "He was not one of us," they complained, "so we told him to stop," as if this healer needed their authorization as the sole proprietors of the mission of Jesus. Their presumption and exclusionary attitude was sadly ironic because whereas the disciples had just failed in exorcising demons (9:14–18), this healer was successful. No, said Jesus, don't stop them, "for whoever is not against us is for us." Even a simple kindness like giving someone a sip of water advances Gods kindom.

Jesus almost always used simple every day symbols or acts to remind us of how it is we can play the part of offering God's grace and love to others. Give someone a sip of water, offer a prayer, give them some food, nourish their body, mind and spirit.

Jesus said "I am the bread of life" those who come to me will never be hungry and those who believe will never thirst. – And so we come together that we might believe somehow that the Bread of life (the life of Jesus) will nourish our spirits and Fill us that we may be content – Fill us that we may know what we have received and through receiving have to give.

For we are the body of Christ, the body of the one who longs to nourish us in such a way that every part can live to its full potential. As we live and work and worship together, as we see one another through God's eyes we are equal.

For in the eyes of God there is no Jew nor Greek, no slaves or free, no male nor female, no Baptist or United, no Pentecostal or Catholic, no worthy or unworthy, no straight or gay, no unloved or unseen. We as the body are nourished at this table by the welcoming God.

Imagine if for just a moment we welcomed in such a way that there were no longer strangers and outcasts. What if we looked at one another we saw the dwelling place of God.