

Watch this week's service on YouTube by clicking: [Charleswood United Church YouTube Channel](#)

Dear Friends

Welcome to worship for Sunday, September 20.

Give us this day our daily bread. These words are easily recognizable to anyone whose Christian foundations included committing the Lord's Prayer to heart. We still recite the Lord's Prayer at nearly every worship service as a communal prayer, one that exists across the many and varied Christian traditions and denominations. No one group may lay claim to it. It belongs to us all.

What is less known is that this particular phrase is not original to Jesus. When the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray he offers a few suggestions for authentic prayer including this reference to the story of manna in the wilderness from Exodus 16. The story may be known to you. Between the departure from Egypt through the Red Sea and the arrival at Mt. Sinai where the commandments will be given and the covenant established, the people worry for themselves and begin to question Moses. They murmur (a great evocative Hebrew word) "Why have you taken us away from the fleshpots (stew) of Egypt only to starve in the wilderness?"

Moses turns to God who assures that each morning a soft flaky bread, or manna, will be provided. Enough only for that day. That's why we say that the 'bread of heaven' is 'daily bread'. It is important to recognize that daily bread is two things simultaneously. It is an acknowledgement that God is good and provides for all creation if we will be proper stewards and share the bounty of the earth. At the same time daily bread is a call to mission, to ensure that the real hunger of all people is met. Those who murmured really were hungry, not only in a spiritual sense but a physical one as well.

I was at a preacher's conference many years ago listening to the Rev. Dr. James Forbes, the renowned African American minister of Riverside Church in New York City. At one point Forbes stopped what he was saying mid-sentence, as though struck by an idea from above. He turned to the crowd and asked, "Are there any Episcopalians here today?" Two men near the front sheepishly raised their hands. Dr. Forbes came bounding down from the pulpit and stood right in front of them and said, "Brothers, let us agree that there should be a moratorium on communion until every church in the country has a breakfast program." The point he so eloquently and effectively made is that we cannot take the bread of heaven without an awareness of the hunger of the world.

Of course a lot of churches have food programs, food drives, drop-ins, soup kitchens, support Winnipeg Harvest, fill Christmas Hampers, and otherwise see the connection between faithfulness and the hunger of the world. The Healing Farm project and the Farmer's Markets with the Yazidi refugee community represent our small part of addressing this most basic of human needs.

In communion, we enact the ancient, faithful understanding of what to do with the bread of heaven. We are thankful. We are equal. And there is enough for everyone.

Grace and peace,

Michael

Please enjoy our online worship and feel free to share with others. The link for sharing is:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFKme5ppII_Yqg94Pk3AmSA?view_as=subscriber

DID YOU KNOW:

- The **Life and Work** of our church is updated by Janet weekly. Janet is enjoying two weeks of well-deserved vacation. We have welcomed Paula Jeffrey as our substitute office administrator!!! Please have a look at the Life & Work insert: <https://charleswoodunited.org/media/life-work/>
- **Dry Goods Food Drive** – This summer our refugee sponsorship program CREST learned that the sponsorship of new refugees is on an indefinite hold. They have chosen to direct some support to government sponsored Yazidi refugees in Winnipeg. We are supporting this effort by holding a dry goods food drive for the most common needs in Yazidi households. The list included items such as: Canola oil, Basmati Rice (Rooster brand), Cereal, White Flour, Sugar, Fine Salt, Red Split Lentils, Chick Peas, Nescafé Double Filter Coffee & Tetley Orange Pekoe Tea. Full details are available by clicking here: <https://charleswoodunited.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020.09.08.-Food-Drive.pdf>
- **Water Bottle Drive for Westgrove School** – Westgrove School is in need of new, reusable water bottles. Due to Covid-19, water fountains in the school have been disabled. As a result, each student now requires a bottle for their own use. We will collect new, reusable water bottles until the end of the month. A drop-off box is located outside the church office. All items must be received at the church by September 30th.
- Our annual **Bereavement Support Course** with Linda Churchill of Crescentwood Counselling is going to be offered in an online format this fall. The sessions begin this week and are held Thursday evenings September 24 – October 29 from 7-9 PM. Please register by calling the church office.
- Look for YouTube church school with our Children’s Ministry Director Rosalie Finch set to begin in the weeks to come.

And finally, we have successfully managed to come through the summer in a healthy financial situation. Autumn will present challenges as fundraisers such as the Fall Supper and the musical will not take place and all rentals save Community Ventures are cancelled. If you would like to support the ministry of Charleswood United Church please visit: www.charleswoodunited.org/donate. Thank you to all those who have continued to contribute regularly.