

Watch this week's service on YouTube by clicking: [August 15 Worship Service Video](#)

- Please enjoy our online worship and feel free to share with others. The link for sharing is: <https://youtu.be/u9I8IjRS5UQ>
- For news and events please have a look at **Life & Work**: <https://charleswoodunited.org/media/life-work/>
- Read the scripture lesson for today by clicking here: [John 6:1-14](#)
- **Offering Information at:** [www.charleswoodunited.org/donate](http://www.charleswoodunited.org/donate) Thank you for your generous support.
- Join Us next **Sunday, August 22, for a Farmers Market** in the church parking lot (details below)

Dear Friends

Welcome to worship for Sunday, August 15, 2021.

Where we live it is not very surprising that one of the themes of summer is food. I had my first local corn of the year this week. It was served with 'new' potatoes. And for dessert, blueberry pie made with fresh blueberries. Perhaps you have your favorite summer food. Not being one for standing outside at the bar-be-cue when the snow is all around I tend to reserve that method of cooking for the warm weather. Roasting chicken or beef is set aside and grilling burgers and kabobs takes their place.

And then there is the tomatoes. In a spring letter I mentioned that I kind of lost my sense of reason while visiting a nursery and came home with 15 tomato plants instead of 4. I don't think I'm headed for a bumper crop. The plants look good and the tomatoes are coming but all I have had to eat so far is three cherry tomatoes. But they were delicious.

The theme of the service, like the theme of summer, this is food. This is true of the scripture, our partnership, and our mission.

The text of the day is the feeding of 5000 in the Gospel of John otherwise known as the miracle of the loaves and fishes. As I try my best to share, the wonder of the miracle is twofold. Surely it speaks of a miraculous event in the life of Jesus but it also serves to remind us of the immense blessing that comes with the sharing of food be that at our home tables, the communion table, or in this world that God so loves.

Which is partly why we took the service on the road, to a farming community that has been a key partner of Charleswood during this pandemic. This has previously been reported but when the pandemic began and churches were initially closed I began to send some of our written worship resources to a few of my friends in Birtle and Miniota where they were printed and shared. When we got better at being online I started to send the link to this pastoral charge in Western Manitoba so others could have a worship experience while closed for in person worship.

But that's where it took an unexpected turn and blessing. Two members of the Birtle congregation, Ron and Brenda Samchuk, are part of the community access network for Westman Cable out of Brandon. Long story short, the Charleswood services began to be shown on community access TV in 42 communities in Western Manitoba and have been for over a year now. As an expression of gratitude for this partnership, Benjamin and I drove out this week to film parts of the service in this beautiful area of our province. You might say that the connection of a community where food is produced and a community where food is consumed is a bit of loaves and fishes story in this pandemic.

But the food theme also extends to our latest mission effort as well. As you hopefully are aware it is time for another Farmer's Market with our friends in the Yazidi refugee community in Winnipeg. This is a consequence of our partnership with Operation Ezra, the Jewish led coalition to support the Yazidis. On a small farm near St. Francis vegetables are grown by these new Canadians for themselves and to raise funds for others. They call it The Healing Farm for the blessings that arise from working the land and feeding your families after the experience of terror and displacement. Join us next Sunday morning in the parking lot if you can.

Food is an abundant blessing. At least it should be. Cooked, raw, grilled, red, green, yellow, grain, meat, fruit, vegetable. When shared, it is all the bread of life.

Grace and peace

Michael

**Pastoral Note:** We learned too late to include in the service that one of our members, Jim Ellison, passed away at home this week after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Jim was a quiet and gentle man who will be deeply missed. Please remember his wife Lily and their family in your prayers.

### **The Healing Farm Farmers' Market Returns**

Fresh farm produce from **The Healing Farm** (our partnership with Operation Ezra and the Yazidi Refugee community) will be on sale in the church parking lot Sunday, August 22 from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Please drop by.

**YAZIDI FARMERS MARKET  
Charleswood United Church  
4820 Roblin Blvd.  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 22/21  
9:00 am TO 12 noon**

**Special Guest Vendor** – Also available that day, a sample of local meats and agricultural products from **Prairie Routes**, a local Farm-to-Table initiative. For more information visit: <https://www.sustainablegrain.ca/prairie-routes>