

Faith and Food

Gathering Music: "Come to the Supper," Global Praise 3, C. Wesley, Patrick Matsikenyiri

Introduction

As Christians, faith is central to our lives
As living beings, food is central to our lives

Hymn #599, "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

1. Bread of Life

I love food! God created us to enjoy food
Hunger for food reflection of hunger for God
Every meal we commune with God – John 6:35, "I am the bread of Life"

Holy Communion – Luke 22:14-20

"*Eucharist*" = *eu* – good; *charist* – gift or grace

Community formed around a table

Church suppers, coffee, breakfasts – Easter and men's
Singing grace together – "Be present at our table, Lord"

Hymn #152, "I Sing the Almighty Power of God"

2. Image of God

What do you see when you look in a mirror? – God's image!
We are filled with God's Spirit – each of us a unique temple, a holy place
Our bodies are sacred, we need to care for them
Busyness & food – we do not take time for food & fellowship
What is our relationship with food? – What do we eat? – Where do we eat?
With whom do we eat? – When and how do we eat?

Hymn # 581, "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" (Tune #384)

3. Hospitality, Sharing God's Bounty

Experience of hospitality

Welcome others into your home – clean, cook, arrange schedules
Prepare meals for funerals etc.

Expressions of God's love – Greek, *philoxenos* = *philo* – love; *xenos* - stranger

Gospel of Luke – Jesus guest in many homes – Luke 14:12b-14

Matter of justice as well as love – **ALL** need to be fed – Matthew 25:31-46

Wodaabe proverb, pp.61-62

God demands radical hospitality – social justice

Hard to accept hospitality when we have so much
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

4. Feasting and Fasting

The Great Feast – Isaiah 25:6-10a; Prodigal Son – Luke 15:22-24

Moments of pure, profound **JOY** few & far between – meant to be shared

What do we celebrate in our lives?

Love Feast

Hymn #554, "All Praise to our Redeeming Lord," verses 1,2,5,6

David in the wilderness – Psalm 63:1-8

Fasting shifts focus from self to God

Jesus' day – twice a week, 2nd & 5th days; Matthew 6:16-18

John Wesley – twice a week, 4th & 6th days like early Christians

Helps us focus on prayer – sacrifice, commitment, time, physical discomfort

Hymn #428, "For the Healing of the Nations"

Prayer

LOVE FEAST

*Hymn #554, "All Praise to our Redeeming Lord," verses 1,2,5,6

Prayer of Charles Wesley:

**Father of earth and heaven, thy hungry children feed,
thy grace be to our spirits given, that true immortal bread.
Grant us and all our race in Jesus Christ to prove
the sweetness of thy pardoning grace, the manna of thy love.**

Canticle of Love:

Let love be genuine and live in harmony; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good. Outdo one another in showing honor; be humble and never conceited.

**Love is stronger than death and jealousy is cruel as the grave.
Floods cannot drown love and wealth cannot buy it.**

Put love above all else; let Christ's peace rule your hearts. Always be forgiving, as Christ has forgiven you.

**Love is not jealous or boastful, arrogant, rude, or stubborn,
irritable, resentful, or possessive. Love is patient and kind.**

Do not love in word or speech only; love also in deed and truth.
Receive each other in sincerity, find mercy and grow old together.

**Love rejoices in the right; it bears, believes, hopes, and endures
all things, for love is faithful and endless.**

When the Lord builds the house, the labor is never in vain.

**Happy are those who take refuge in God; those who serve the Lord
are redeemed.**

1 Corinthians 13: 1-8a,13 (NRSV)

Sharing

Passing of the Bread: Blessed are you, O Lord, God of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Passing of the Cup: Jesus Christ said, "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: **Blessed are you, O God, the author of all sustenance, who has nourished us from our youth up. Fill, we implore you, our hearts with joyfulness, that in your bountiful providence we may serve you with every good work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all glory and power, honor and worship, both now and for evermore. Amen**