

Sunday 28th July 2024 - TRINITY 9

'Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated, so also the fish, as much as they wanted'

John Chapt. 6 v11

The story of how Jesus fed the five thousand is perhaps one of the most well-known of all the miracles. Miracles which are possibly among some of the most vivid aspects of Jesus' life and ministry. Restoring sight to the blind, healing the sick, turning water into wine are just some of those recorded. The feeding of the five thousand is recorded in all of the Gospels. Why should everyday 'foodstuffs, bread and wine be the vehicle which Jesus uses to perform a miracle on such a large scale?

'Five barley loaves and two fish...and when they were satisfied he told his disciples 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing maybe lost' (John 6, v12). You might have noticed reading this, how Jesus' actions seem to prefigure the Eucharist. In all the Gospels there are the same instructions. In the Eucharist today the Priest must be careful to gather up all the remaining fragments of the bread. Bread that has been blessed by God is especially precious and must not be left lying around.

There are a lot fewer miracles recorded by John than there are by the other Gospel writers. The feeding of the five thousand must have some import to be set out by them all.

In the feeding of the five thousand, as John records it, Jesus is giving his disciples and us a picture of himself not just as a prophet but as something infinitely greater. John wants us to understand that this miracle occurred not just in front of a few bystanders but in front of a huge crowd of peoples. The barley loaves, the food of the poor and the impoverished, are transformed into a heavenly banquet.

The miracles in the Gospels are very often referred to by Jesus as 'his works', but in John they are more like signs or signposts about the nature of Jesus. So for instance in today's Old Testament reading we have a story that prefigures the feeding of the five thousand except it is the prophet Elisha who says 'give it (loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain) to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, they shall eat and have some

left' (2 Kings 4, v43).

'Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets; I came not to destroy, but to fulfill (Matthew 5.v17)

And that is exactly what John is getting at. Who is this Jesus? He is not a prophet like Elisha, but something else.

So when the events of the feeding of the five thousand are closely followed by Jesus walking on the sea and the scepticism of the disciples, ('they were terrified' v19) it is then that John gives us another clue as to his overarching message. He records Jesus as saying 'It is I, do not be afraid' (v20). 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry and who ever believes in me will never be thirsty' (John 6, v35)

In an age of scepticism, miracles offer a very particular challenge. If you don't believe in the 'special' nature of Jesus Christ as the Son of God then you will dismiss all talk of miracles as nonsense.

But creation itself—the world created -'ex nihilo' (out of nothing.), is not that a miracle? The birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

We cannot know exactly what happened near or on the Sea of Galilee near Bethsaida. John is not writing as a historian but rather as an interpreter of the signs and wonders that Jesus was capable of. If we see only a prophet we are not seeing Jesus!

T E Jessop onetime Professor of Philosophy and past Vice –President of the Methodist Conference, once wrote

'If the universe is dominated by a spirit, miracles are possible;
if by a spirit that is love, probable; and if that spirit has become incarnate
this miracle would make further ones very probable indeed'

The Christian Faith, T E Jessop

Amen.

Graham Davies

READINGS

COLLECT

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF KINGS

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

2 Kings 4:42-44

This the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145 v10-18

Response: **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever.**

The Lord is sure in all his words:
and faithful in all his deeds.
The Lord upholds all those who fall:
and lifts up all those who are bowed down. **R**

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord:
and you give them their food in due season.
You open wide your hand:
and fill all things living with plenty. **R**

The Lord is righteous in all his ways:
and loving in all his works.
The Lord is near to those who call upon him:
to all who call upon him faithfully. **R**

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Ephesians 3:14-21₃

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

Jesus took the loaves and fish and gave thanks,
and they had as much as they wanted.

Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

When Jesus realised that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then

they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

John 6:1-21

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



All proceeds to go to the St Cadoc's Church Refurbishment Appeal



COME AND JOIN US
AT CHARLES WILLIAMS CInW PRIMARY SCHOOL
Tea and Cakes
SAT 10th AUGUST 2024 2pm to 4pm

Trip to Winchester

Please would those who have not already paid for the trip in full, pay the balance of £25.

There are six seats available on the Winchester trip, Saturday, 31st August 2024. If you wish to join the party, please let Julio/Carolyn (01633 423242) know .

Thank you. Carolyn and Julio.

PRAYER

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits which you have given us,
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.



Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly, and
follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Chair Sponsorship for St Cadoc's Church



- The cost of one chair is £155.
- The names of donors with a personal message or dedication will be recorded electronically and viewed on the website in due course.
eg **Pauline Foster In memory of my grandfather, William Richard Foster**
- Minimum towards the chairs is £50 for a personal donation and £155 for a business sponsorship
- We accept payment by bank transfer, <https://stcadocscaerleon.uk/st-cadocs-church-refurbishment-appeal/checkout.justgiving.com/53lh55wm54> and QR code and cheques payable to St Cadoc's Church PCC. Please indicate clearly on the back of the cheque, 'Chair Sponsorship'.
- To make a donation via JustGiving please use the button above or follow the QR code link. If you're a tax payer please consider adding gift aid to your donation as this increases the amount by 25%. Once you have made the donation please email phil.sergeant1@gmail.com providing your details and any personal message or dedication you would like recorded in the online register of sponsors.

**Easyfundraising total for St Cadoc's Refurbishment Fund
has now reached £2004.62**

Please support us today at <http://efraising.org/XW7a62zaYB>.

Sponsor a chair total including Gift Aid is currently £4827.00. To find out how you may sponsor a chair, please go to

<https://stcadocscaerleon.uk/st-cadocs-church-refurbishment-appeal/checkout.justgiving.com/53lh55wm54>

Thank you for your continuing support.

SERVICES

You are all invited to join us in our worship in person or watch via livestream on Sunday mornings from St Cadoc's.

Sunday 28th July

10.30am Sung Eucharist Service, Charles Williams CinW primary school hall.

Wednesday 31st July

10.30am to 11.30am Churches Together Memory Café, Lodge Farm Church
10.30am Said Eucharist, led by Rev'd Sue Pratten, Ss Julius, Aaron & David RC Church, Caerleon
2.00pm Funeral, Teresa Ann Howell, Langstone Vale Crematorium
7.00pm Beechwood Ministry Area Council, St Teilo's, Alway.
7.30pm Bellringing practice

Sunday 4th August

10.30am **TRANSFIGURATION**
Sung Eucharist Service, Charles Williams CinW primary school hall.

Monday 5th August

10.30am Holy Communion at Caerleon House Nursing Home
11.00am Holy Communion at Eleanor Hodson House

Wednesday 7th August

10.30am to 11.30am Churches Together Memory Café, Lodge Farm Church
10.30am Said Eucharist, led by Rev'd Sue Pratten, Ss Julius, Aaron & David RC Church, Caerleon
7.30pm Bellringing practice

Sunday 11th August

10.30am Sung Eucharist Service, Charles Williams CinW primary school hall.

Monday 12th August

12.30pm Funeral, Libby Williams, Holy Trinity Christchurch, followed by burial at Christchurch Cemetery at 1.30pm.

REFURBISHMENT PROGRESS

The stone floor is now being laid, starting with the labyrinth, which is going to look amazing. A labyrinth contains a single walking path to the centre and then back out again. It has many turns but, unlike mazes, does not have dead ends. The purpose of the labyrinth is personal and spiritual transformation. The spiritual journey involves releasing distractions on the way in, receiving spiritual guidance in the centre and returning to your life with a renewed sense of purpose.

The installation of the labyrinth as part of St Cadoc's refurbishment reminds us that we are all pilgrims on a journey of faith, with Christ at the centre of our lives as a worshipping community.

Yours in Christ,
Rev'd Sue



CONTACT

If you have anything you'd like to communicate to the people of St Cadoc's, please let Rev'd Sue know. Also, if Rev'd Sue can be of help to you at any time, please get in touch!

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