

Bread of Life

August 1-29, 2021

“Jesus took the loaves...distributed them to those who were seated; ...as much as they wanted.” – John 6:11

Bread. It is so essential to our lives and our understandings. We use the word in so many different ways and to mean different things. What is this living bread that Jesus promises to be? How will it change us?

August 1 – Food

“For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” – John 6:33

John 6:24-35; Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

When we talk about bread, the first, and most obvious, meaning is food. A basic substance that has, for millennia, nourished people of all classes across much of the globe. The grains which keep our bodies moving. But once they're moving, how do we live?

August 8 – Currency

“the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” – John 6:51

John 6:35, 41-51; Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Bread means money and money means power. The currency by which we get what we want. But Jesus challenges all of that. He stands against the money and power of the world, showing a new way, a new power in the currency of life.

August 15 – Body

“for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink” – John 6:55

John 6:51-58; Proverbs 9:1-6

“This is my body”...if we’ve been in the church for a while this is familiar language, even comforting. But what if we had no context? These are disturbing words seeming to draw us into horrible actions. How could we contemplate eating someone? But that is not what Jesus is pointing towards. Instead we ask, what does it mean to, metaphorically, incorporate someone or something into our body, into all that we are, so that no place in our selves or our lives remains unaffected?

August 22 – TBD/guest preacher

August 29 – Community

“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.” – John 6:56

John 6:56-69; 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43

All of the meanings of bread come together in relationship, in the steadfast love we know in the celebration of the act of communion. Here we find our daily bread and our place of strength. Here we know ourselves in Christ and Christ in us. It is not easy. The call can offend all of our sensibilities. Still we are invited, into community, together in God.