

08-02-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Jesus did not feed the five thousand. He told the disciples to do it. God has entrusted us to be the body of Christ--the hands and feet through which God's work is done in the world. God does not work alone, but through people, you and me. To follow Jesus is to express our faith in concrete acts of love, justice, and compassion toward others.”

Clifton Kirkpatrick



Matthew 14:13-21

Questions for Reflection —

- How have you seen God bless and multiply human generosity? When have you witnessed a seemingly small or simple action multiplied in abundance in the service of God? How has God provided for you in a way that you did not expect? What spiritual habit might you cultivate to help you notice God's gracious provisions in your life? What would it then look like for you to respond and serve others out of the abundance you have received?

- What situations in our world stir your compassion but seem too big for you to take action? What human needs (physical, emotional, spiritual) of those around you feel overwhelming? What is God prompting you to offer towards addressing those needs, even if the offering feels inadequate? Can you trust that God can multiply what you offer and make a way where there seems to be no way? What will help you to be willing to take the risk and allow God to work through you in acts of love, justice, and compassion?

- How do you recharge when you feel burned out? What refills your spiritual tank? What practices or activities bring you refreshment and renewal? What do you need in order to establish a rhythm that allows rest and respite from the challenges of daily life? What is the spiritual nourishment you seek? What spiritual and emotional hunger do you see in the people around you? What does it mean for us as a congregation to find a balance that includes meeting both spiritual and physical needs of those served by our programs and ministries?

Daily Household Prayer

Loving God, our hearts are the little loaves and fishes of Your presence in us. By the mystery of Your Spirit in us, multiply them. Feed us with Your grace. We are hungry. We are listening. Amen