

Give us this day our daily bread.

Jeannie Martin Blaker 14th May 2023

**Jeannie**

**St Georges**

Readings: v. Matt.6:11

Ps. 23. Matt.8:23-27 J asleep Mark 8:22-26 blind

**Jeannie**

Jesus, may we see you more clearly this day.

Who has already eaten, or will eat some bread today?

Yes, bread is a staple for many cultures in the world, including the Jewish people.

**PPT1.**

Today we reflect on the phrase Jesus taught us to pray:

'Give us this day our daily bread' Matt 6:11

Asking for what we need teaches us dependence on God. Jesus often asked 'What do you want me to do for you?' And always responded with compassion.

So just reflect when the last time was, that you asked God for something...

There are many families in NZ with practical, obvious needs such as putting food on the table or concerns about housing with the slips and flooding this year.

Jesus also said 'I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.' (Jn 6:35)

What does that mean for us? What is the link between asking for what we need and Jesus being the bread of life?

Could it be that relationship with Jesus could satisfy our deepest needs and longings?

*Loud knock on door....*

Who could this be? It looks like... it is. It's Jesus! - let's welcome him in.

**Jesus** *Tena koutou. Greetings to you all from the Father and the Spirit and the saints who have gone before you.*

**Jeannie:**

Jesus, we know that 2000 years ago you lived like one of us - but still it's a shock to see you in person here! Sometimes we need a reminder that your Spirit is still active in the world. So here you are! Welcome to St Georges. It's very timely because I was just going to talk about that phrase in the prayer you taught us: 'Give us this day our daily bread'. But let's scrap that!

Is there anything you would like to say to us here today?

**Jesus:** *'It's good to be here in person and to hear you using this prayer that I taught my disciples. - to ask for your 'daily bread'.*

*And I do hear and have compassion for all your needs.*

**Jeannie:** So is there anyone here who wants to ask Jesus about a desire of their heart?

**PPT2 Direction**

**A. I don't know what direction to take in my future study and employment. How do I find God's will for me?**

**Jesus:** *God said to Jeremiah (29:11) " For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord - plans for good and not evil, to give you a future and a hope' So learn to listen to me. 'I came that you might have life, and have it more abundantly.' Jn10:10 We created you with all your giftings and personality, so learn to notice what gives you life! And take hold of all those opportunities **Elizabeth.** 'I will supply all your needs according to my riches in glory. (Phil 4:19)*

**Jeannie:** The place 'God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet' Buechner, F

**PPT3. Doubt/ Questions**

**B. I've attended church all my life but in the last few years I have struggled with doubts and questions about faith: I thought that if I lived as a good Christian, God would protect me from some hard things but he hasn't. How do I make sense of that?**

**Jesus:** *Remember Thomas, the one people call the doubter. In fact I think he was just being honest. Thomas wasn't with the other disciples, the first time I appeared to them, so he couldn't believe that I'd risen. However, Thomas was there when I appeared again. They were all still very afraid so I offered them my peace and invited Thomas to put his hand into my side and believe. (Jn 20: 24-29a) He knew as soon as he saw me that it was true. That I had risen from the dead! So I enjoy hearing your questions and doubts. I love your honesty **Chris.** After all, if you had all the answers you would be God!*

**Jeannie**

Over the last 500 years, theological questions have brought about many schisms in the church, some of them very painful. Right belief became more important than the practice of Love. Today people's behaviour around social issues is causing divisions - are you 'in or out?' Yet Jesus calls us to Love.

**PPT.4 Fear and anxiety**

**C. Jesus, I am worried about my own future, but I'm especially worried about the future of my children, with the political and environmental crises**

**Jesus:**

*' ..don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.' Matt 6:34*

*Remember when, after a long day, I was asleep in the boat and a storm arose. My disciples cried out to me to save them. So I calmed the storm and I will do that today when you call on me, even if you think I am asleep. I am with you.*

**PPT.5** *Regarding the larger crises ' This earth is mine ..and they that dwell in it. Ps 24:1 So 'trust in Me with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding **Maria** Proverbs (3:5,6) Remember ' I am with you always'. (Matt 28:20) and that you are my hands, feet and heart in this precious world. So do your part.*

**Jeannie:**

I find 2 internet groups encouraging: Spark of Genius - tells of good things that are happening around the world politically, environmentally and socially. The other one is Avaaz (meaning Voice) - a global campaign network that you can support causes by signing.

**PPT.6** My favourite prayer when I'm anxious, is from Philippians: 'Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'. Phil 4:6,7 So when we notice our anxiety, just tell God and God's peace will come.

**PPT.7 Comfort**

**D. I'm grieving the loss of someone I love - and it feels like a huge hole inside me. And I'm beginning to think about growing old myself and what that journey will be like for me.**

**Jesus:** *'Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted'* **Deborah.** Matt 5: 4 Remember also my promise in a Psalm to *'heal the brokenhearted and bandage their wounds (Ps 147:3) I knew what it was like to mourn while on earth and today we are with those who are grieving.*

**Jeannie:** Psalm 91:15,16 : Whenever you cry out to me, I'll answer. I'll be with you in troubling times. .. I'll fill you full in old age.

And Ps 73:26 : My body and my heart may fail, but God is my heart's rock and my share forever'

**PPT8** Paul wrote in Corinthians: 'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort others because we have received it from God' 2 Cor 1:3,4.

**PPT9 Transformation**

**E. Jesus, as I get older I become aware of my longing to grow closer to You and your longing for me to become more free of wounds that restrict me from experiencing 'life in all its abundance' as you promised!**

**Jesus**

Paul reminds you in Galatians (5:1) *'It is for freedom that I have set you free. So don't let yourselves be burdened by a yoke of slavery.'*

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, ... to free those who are bound. Is 61:1*

*Remember when I healed the blind man at Bethsaida, he didn't see clearly at first though clear sight did come.*

*As you experience my love and acceptance you will become more free, **Rosie***

**Jeannie:** Corinthians reminds us that as we seek God's face we will be transformed progressively into his likeness ... 2 Cor 3: 18.

So being in God's gaze of love brings about transformation.

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**Jeannie cont**

Jesus, I'm aware that you need to return to the Father now, to keep your eyes on the whole world, but we are so glad you visited us. Is there a last word you would like to say to us all?

**Jesus:** *When I returned to the Father all those years ago we gave the Holy Spirit to the world to live in you and through you. Now I must return!*

**Jeannie** says: One last thing Jesus - I noticed that you knew everyone's name!

**Jesus:** *'Yes I know all your names - after all, we created you! Remember my Spirit is within you!*

**Jeannie**

Now let us have a moment's silence to **reflect** on what has touched you. You may want to tell God about your need for the living bread.— then listen to see if there is a whisper from God.

**PPT 10**

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Thank you Jesus that we can come to you with our daily needs.

You are the Bread of Life. Teach us to see You, to hear You, and to know deep in our being that we are seen, heard and loved, for 'Neither height nor depth, not anything else in all creation, is able to separate us from the love of God'. Rom 8:39