



Sunday Communion Service

1 August 2021 (Pentecost 10)

This communion service is prepared by The Minister, Rev. Seung Jae Yeon at Boronia Park Uniting Church. In his preparation, Isabella Lee (Bible Reading and song), Alan Keast (Kid's Talk), Robyn Harvey (Prayers of the People), and Grace Song (Piano) join participate in leading the worship service.

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

I am thankful to God for the moment that I discern God's call in my ordained life and especially this week as I celebrate my 7 years ministry here at Boronia Park Uniting Church. I give thanks to God that I, with faithful members of this church continue the faith journey together.

What are you thankful for today?

Take a moment to think about thankfulness to God and to others. Then share yours with family, friends, or neighbours after this service.

OPENING PRAYER: GOD'S PROVISION

Here's a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession inspired by the ways in which God cared for the Israelites while in the wilderness.

God,
like the Israelites in the wilderness,
we too have known Your love,
and experienced Your care and provision.
You invite us to extend that love to the world around us—
to care for others as deeply as we care for ourselves.
And so we bring the needs of our world before You now.
In Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the many who do not have enough:
 enough food to eat, or shelter to keep warm;
 enough employment, or money to pay their bills;
 enough medicine or medical care.
Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We also pray for those who have more than enough,
 but who still struggle to find meaning and purpose in life;
 who indulge in dangerous or self-serving activities
 to dull their pain or loneliness.
Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, Your grace reaches out to all of us.
You call us to live as citizens of heaven,

working together with one heart and mind.
Strengthen us to live in a manner worthy
of the Good News we have received,
offering our lives in service of Your kingdom,
where the last are first, and the first are last,
and there is grace enough for all.
Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, Amen.

Attributed to Christine Longhurst

SONG MAJESTY

Majesty, worship His majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory,
honour, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority
flow from His throne
Unto His own; His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high
The name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify
Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty –
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

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BIBLE READING ISABELLA LEE

Gospel reading: John 6: 24-35 (New Revised Standard Version)

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

KID’S TALK ALAN KEAST

MOSES: (Looking around) – hello God, hello, are you there? Hello?
Anyone seen God today?

GOD: I am here Moses. What can I do for you?

MOSES: Guess what God?

GOD: Oh, another of your Guessing Games eh Moses? Yes, WHAT?

MOSES: You know that minister at Boronia Park Uniting church with the funny name?

GOD: Yes Moses, Rev Seungjae Yeon and it's not a funny name, it is a Korean name.

MOSES: Oh they didn't teach me about Korea when I went to school in Egypt. Well, anyway him, that's who I am talking about. He is the one with the lovely wife who plays piano and did you know the eldest boy, Josh, is now at university? And Daniel turned 16 the other day and Heather is doing really well with her art? And did you know they have a dog too?

GOD: Yes Moses, I knew all that, and the dog's name is Arong! Rev Seungjae and Grace are my chosen church leaders for that community, so I know them very well.

MOSES: And did you know about all those young people at his church? There are so many I have forgotten all their names.

GOD: Well I haven't forgotten them, and neither has Seungjae. We both care for them very much and love them dearly, especially during lockdown.

MOSES: Well, the exciting thing is in the week's bible reading I get a big mention – you know about when we fed all the people in the wilderness with the manna?

GOD: WE?? WE?

MOSES: Well, maybe you fed them and I was your servant in the desert.

GOD: Yes, of course we did. We were such a great duo that one was asking and the other was giving. Do you still remember the taste of the manner? that sounds better. So tell me about this week's bible reading Moses.

MOSES: Well it is from John's gospel – did you know him?

GOD: Yes, of course I know John, one of my Son's best friends. Now get to the point.

MOSES: Here's some news for you – did you know that your son Jesus ALSO did a feeding the people act – he fed 5000 men with just five barley loaves and two little fish; Rev Seungjae talked about this last week at church online.

GOD: Yes Moses, I knew about that. He thanked me and together we blessed the food.

MOSES: OH, well it seems like all the people followed him because they thought he was giving away free food. And HERE is the big thing – He said, “I am the bread of life.” You know God; I have been doing some thinking...

GOD: interrupts – OH DEAR, here we go!

MOSES: You know, he wasn't saying he was a loaf of bread, white or wholemeal or sliced thick for toast or thin for sandwiches. BECAUSE all the people had been thinking of the bread he fed them with just before, he captured their minds on this subject and then dropped the big YAMMY!

GOD: Yammy??

MOSES: Yes, YAMMY. Just like bread was a very basic food for these people and they had it in their minds about the feeding of the 5000, so JESUS wanted them to think about his real purpose here on earth. He meant that just like bread is important to them in their lives on earth, HE was like the basic essential for their heavenly life. He wanted them to think about you and why he came to earth. He told them they should seek eternal life that only the Son of Man can offer them.

GOD: Hey, that is good thinking Moses, and a little unusual I might say.

MOSES: Yes God, he didn't want them to just think about bread they could eat but the heavenly bread that he could offer, because it says in verse 35 of chapter 6, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me shall never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” AND GOD, do you know something else? I have been thinking –

GOD: Oh dear, let's not spoil a good thought.

MOSES: No, but a great way to remember the bible verse is to put it to music and into a song. Just like Bella sang last week about having another person in the fire, well there is a song about this verse. That Rev Seungjae and Grace Song probably know it and maybe all the children could learn it – it goes,

‘I am the Bread of life.

Those who come to me shall not hunger;
those who believe in me shall not thirst.

No one can come to me unless the Father draws them.

‘And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up,
and I will raise them up at the last day.’ (BREAD OF LIFE?)

MOSES: And God, one last thought

GOD: Yes, please OH dear me!

MOSES: As all the children are doing school work at home, why don’t they have a break from school this Sunday and write or draw a picture about the verse Jesus saying he was the bread of life AND send them to Rev Seungjae. He could put them onto the screen for the next service at Boronia Park Uniting church. What about that?

GOD: Have you ever done a career as teacher? Homework is always such a reminder of what they learn. Okay, children of Boronia Park Uniting Church, after this worship service, would you please write or draw a picture about the verse saying ‘the Bread of Life’? Then parents, please take a picture and message to Seung Jae. Moses, would you please say a prayer for all the children and young people at BPUC?

MOSES: Yes God. Dear loving heavenly father, we thank you for the children and young people who love you and are growing to learn more about you and your son Jesus. Please be with them, AND THEIR PARENTS during this lockdown period and help all the church families to grow to love you more each day. AMEN.

GOD: Amen. See you Moses.

SERMON SEUNG JAE YEON

Why bread? My question here is not asking ‘good or bad’ about bread. To be honest, as a rice eater, a loaf of bread or a piece of bread may be eaten as a snack or used as an ingredient in other food preparation. Though bread is a good food, to me, a bowl of rice is the staff of life in my days. Again, this is my opinion as rice eater. It may differ with you. This tells us that I am Seung Jae Yeon, who you are journeying with in the life of Boronia Park Uniting Church. Wondering how well this is received by your own preference or culinary style.

I, your church minister, and a rice eater, have been with you working for God’s people and unpacking Christ’s ministry and mission since 2014. I just turned 8 years old as your minister this month. In 2014, most bread eaters called me and my family, rice eaters, for the church as minister. Since then, we, Boronia Park Uniting Church have become a Christian community of bread eaters and rice eaters. In recent years, I have welcomed more bread eaters and rice eaters in our Christian fellowship. I am not dividing but saying that we become an intercultural congregation. Bread and a bowl of rice have been a common staple food product to all of us in our day’s journey. Bread and rice bowl is now the staff of life when it comes to our cultural and linguistic identity here at Boronia Park Uniting Church. As basic food among us, bread and rice bowl have come to take on significance beyond simple nutrition, evolving into a fixture in the life of our congregation, our daily life and language as Christ followers.

The bread of life

Jesus said to his friends, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35, NRSV) Neither Egyptian style bread nor Romans, he himself says, I am “the true bread from heaven” (6:32), “which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (6:33). I don’t read the wrong meaning into the

text like ‘the true rice bowl from heaven or a bowl of rice of life.’ Jesus, the food of life, fully unpacks what it means to receive or eat the bread from heaven given by God the Father. What he clearly speaks is that he can only satisfy us if we come and believe in him. Isn’t it simple?



However, the very first recipients of the true bread from heaven seem not to understand what Jesus says to them. With his confidence, Jesus explains to them that all they have here and now is the bread from heaven. God gives to them. God provides them. God feeds them through his Son Jesus who is present now with his friends. But those eating bread only for their secular or physical life cannot understand. They said to Jesus, “Sir, give us this bread always.” (John 6:34) What are they saying? It’s like when a dinner table is well spread and prepared, I come say, ‘Grace, where is my dinner? Can you feed me now?’ How would Grace feel if I say so. Jesus’ friends can only see a loaf of bread with their eyes. But they cannot see the true bread from heaven who sits with them after searching to find him in Capernaum. They just want to have Jesus again who fed 5,000 people and to eat that bread again. We understand that they are all less fortunate so they might be hungry all the time. But the purpose of what Jesus does and is for them is not all

about providing food. He is now with his friends truly giving them the true food of life given by God, the Source of life and the Sustainer. The bread of life. Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.” (6:26) Jesus feeds them with the heaven’s food which is himself that will satisfy them always. They don’t understand him. They will never understand it.

We may know the Samaritan woman who meets Jesus at well. She is one who meets the Son of God and the Liberator for her desperate married life. She is with the living water but cannot understand what changes in her life. This is what Jesus and the woman talk to each other.

“Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” (4:13-15)

She seems not to understand what is going on. Jesus who is now with her, the living water stands by her, but she asks Jesus to give this water. Jesus knows what is in her. He changes the subject, talking about what the true worship is and of himself. Jesus says, “I am he (the Messiah) the one who is speaking to you.” It turns her life inside out. Then she testifies to her neighbours that she saw the Messiah. The Samaritan woman, who is excluded by her villagers as well as by Jews, understands that Jesus is the true water source from heaven where she can never be thirsty. Her faith in Jesus may bring Jesus’ disciples to shame. John 2:22 says, “After he (Jesus) was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.” Jesus does his best effort to convince that he is the true bread from heaven. Jesus’ friends cannot understand because of their hunger and thirstiness in earthly

life. We, like the disciples, may not understand the meaning of “the bread of life” because of ‘not enough’ in our daily life.

More than good enough because of Jesus Christ

In my seven years ministry opportunity with you all, I sometime think to myself it is not enough to do my work. My to-do list is full of things in ministry every week. But I wonder how many times I said it is enough. In my situation, I had much to be thankful for, but still, I was not content. I feel lack always. I feel hungry and thirsty. Thus, I push me harder to do more. More, more, more. Then as the result of ‘not enough’, I might feel exhorted than be satisfied by all that God had done in his mission and ministry. What I didn't realise was that my focus was on an empty room that I tried to fill by my work. That empty room was covered with "not enough". But, God - he had different plans. His different plans are always the best plans for my “not enough” plans. He had plans to take my "not enough" and exchange it for "more than good enough." He always seems to do that when we are looking, seeking and praying after his will, doesn't he? Friends, God has worked through and by your words and acts. I, Seung Jae, a rice eater, have become “more than good enough” and sufficient in ministry with you, unpacking all God’s will among us. I just want you to know this. And I want us to be like this. We have more than good enough because we journey through this challenging time together. We have more than good enough because we belong to a Christian community where we can love and serve each other with all our hearts. We have more than good enough because we open our hearts and eyes to see One Body and One Lord Jesus Christ. Our credit is in God as we work for his church and his people. Our credit is in Jesus – the baptism of his suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection. And our credit is in all of us, the people of God who strive hard to live and believe in Jesus Christ, the risen crucified Lord. We are more than good enough, aren't we?

Dear my brothers and sisters in Christ, let us seek joy in Christ and enjoy Christ's presence today. Let us use our gifts and talents for his glory. Let us rely on Jesus our Lord. Let us choose today to hope in Christ. When we look for him, I believe that we realise that we have and always had more than good enough!

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ROBYN HARVEY

Let us start with a meditation from the Northumbria Community in Scotland with a morning prayer by Lawrence Chewning.

Let everything that has life,
let everything that has breath
give all the glory and honour and praise
to the One who overcame death.

Let every living thing sing of the mercies of our God.
Let us exalt Him wherever we live
with thanksgiving and joy in our hearts.

If we don't praise Him the mountains will.
If we don't exalt Him the rocks will cry out in our stead.

“God is not dead”

Let every living thing sing of the mercies of our God.
Let us exalt Him wherever we live
with thanksgiving and joy in our hearts. Amen.

In our local area we pray for All believers and seekers of Christ, their families, church, and faith communities in local area.

We especially pray for the member churches of the Hunters Hill Christian Network – *Churches Together*.

In our World cycle of prayer, we pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe.

we are **thankful** for:

- wildlife and rainforests in these lands, and those who protect this habitat
- the oral traditions, folklore, and good practices that have been preserved
- rich minerals and economic development, although benefits need to be shared more fairly
- healing from exploitative practices that began under colonial rule.

We **pray** for:

- democratic fair elections and political stability in this region
- economic development that benefits all the people, especially those living in poverty
- preservation of the wildlife and the land
- the witness of the churches and other faith groups in the midst of the challenges.

A prayer written by Bakala Koumouno, People's Republic of Congo.

Lord, if you want that we should love you with all our heart,
without distraction or detour,
teach us to become constant in your love.
When those without faith or law insult us,
help us to forgive, O Resurrected One.

Jesus, the friend of the people of the Congo,
your Father is not a God of the dead but of the living;
therefore, guide us in your love,
so that we may live in your presence forever. Amen.

We have been asked by the Uniting Church National Assembly
to pray for: All First Nations children to grow strong in spirit –
for deep connections to culture, family and community.

Those who are vulnerable in the fight against COVID-19
and for equal and safe access to vaccines.

For the Survivors and families grieving the discovery of
unmarked graves at residential schools in Canada
and the work of the United Church of Canada
towards truth-telling and reconciliation.

We pray for all our people
who worship you at Boronia Park Uniting Church.
Be with our families as they home school their children.
Help our children to find good experiences close to home,
may they see God's creation and love
in their garden, home and the family.

We pray for our people living alone,
may they realise that they are not alone
but that you Lord are there in their homes with them.

We especially pray for any of our people
who are not well at this time,
give them strength and healing and a peace
that only you can give.

In a few moments of silent prayer
please pray for loved ones and friends you know
who are needing Gods loving arms and healing and peace.

Lord hear our prayer,
Lord hear our prayer,
Lord hear our prayer.

Amen.

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

The offering will be used for the congregation's continuing mission and ministry in these changing times. Please make your offering through a Bank Deposit or a personal cheque whichever is convenient to you.

Account Name: Boronia Park Uniting Church

BSB: 634-634

Account: 100023784

Reference: Offering

Please contact Robyn Harvey, Treasurer on 0418 783 290 or
robyn.49@bigpond.net.au for more information about how to make
Direct Debit.

Let us pray:

We give thanks Lord for these offerings given by your people at Boronia Park church. May they assist our minister Seungjae in his caring and pastoral love for his people.

For the Uniting Church and its caring and pastoral love for the homeless and disadvantaged people in our city.

May we all know these offerings are given in love in your name for your people.

Amen.

Attributed to Robyn Harvey

CELEBRATING COMMUNION AT HOME

We believe the context of a household is a great place for communion to happen. The following paragraphs are meant to give you some guidelines to make this a meaningful celebration within your home and family.

What is communion?

It is the regular remembrance and celebration of the Lord's sacrificial death. The breaking and eating of bread has to do with Christ's body being broken on the cross. The drinking from the cup has to do with the shedding of Christ's blood whereby we are forgiven (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-24).

What is the purpose of communion?

The primary purpose of communion is to take time to remember all that the Lord did for us. It is a time to worship and give thanks for the forgiveness of our sins and the new life and relationship that we have in Jesus Christ. This time of remembrance was initiated by Jesus just before His death. Because we tend to be forgetful people, in the Old Testament, believers were called to remember the faithfulness of God through various memorials. In the New Testament, this is the way Jesus wanted us to remember His love and forgiveness of our sins (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

These verses also explain that communion is a time of personal examination. It is a time to examine our relationship with the Lord and others (1 Corinthians 11:27-32).

How can we serve communion?

There are many ways to serve communion. The Bible does not dictate a certain method. Feel free to be creative. You could celebrate communion after a meal together as often modelled by the early church (Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 2:42-46; 1 Corinthians 11:20-26). You could make this the centrepiece of your time together. The important thing to remember is that this is a time of worship. This is a time of celebration. This is a time of remembrance and reflection. Enjoy it and you will see you and your family members grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:1-11 (NRSV) says,

Imitating Christ's Humility

2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name
that is above every name,
10 so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The breaking bread

Remind yourself or each other that this bread represents the body of Jesus which was broken on our behalf.

We read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NRSV).

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Drinking from the cup

Next get or pass the cup of wine or juice around and dip the piece of bread into the cup. After everyone has dipped, remind them that the cup represents the blood of Jesus which was shed for us.

Partaking communion

After the bread and juice have been consumed, you may have a time of prayer in thanks to God.

Live in charity and steadfast love

Live in charity; God will dwell with you. (Ubi Caritas, Taizé)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
我們在天上的父,
願人都尊祢的名為聖,
하늘에 계신 우리 아버지,
아버지의 이름을 거룩하게 하시며,

your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

願祢的國降臨,
願祢的旨意行在地上,
如同行在天上.
아버지의 나라가 오게 하시며,
아버지의 뜻이 하늘에서와 같이
땅에서도 이루어지게 하소서.

Give us today our daily bread.
我們日用的飲食 今日賜給我們,
오늘 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주시고,
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
免我們的債 如同我們免了人的債
우리가 우리에게 잘못한 사람을
용서하여 준 것같이
우리 죄를 용서하여 주시고,

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

不叫我們遇見試探，
救我們脫離兇惡，
우리를 시험에 빠지지 않게 하시고
악에서 구하소서.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
因為國度，權柄，榮耀，全是祢的，直到永遠。
나라와 권능과 영광이
영원히 아버지의 것입니다.

Amen.

Prayer after communion

Lord,
the eyes of all look to You in hope;
and You give them what they need.
You open Your hand
and satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.

We, too, turn to You again, longing to be filled—
to eat of the Bread of Life,
to drink from Your life-giving streams,
to taste Your goodness and live.

May the time we spend together in Your presence
nourish our hearts and minds;
may it strengthen our relationship with You,
and renew our commitment to live in this world
as Your faithful disciples.

For You alone are God,
the Source and Sustainer of life.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

BENEDICTION

Go out from here and live lives worthy
of the one calling which we all share.
In humility, gentleness and patience,
speak only what is true and loving
and so grow into the unity that is ours in Christ.

And may God the creator reshape your hearts;
May Christ Jesus, the bread of life, sustain you always;
and may the Holy Spirit unite you in the bond of peace.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Attributed to Nathan Nettleton

SONG GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see
He will make a way for me

He will be my guide
Hold me closely to His side
With love and strength
for each new day
He will make a way,
He will make a way

By a roadway in the wilderness,
He'll lead me
And rivers in the desert will I see
Heaven and Earth will fade
but His Word will still remain
And He will do something new today

With love and strength
for each new day
He will make a way,
He will make a way

The Boronia Park Uniting Church communications team who recorded and edited the videos, ensured all the videos ran as they should and designed the invitation and order of service.

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