

Sunday 2 August 2020

Canon Anne Wentzel

Extract from the Sermon – Feeding the 5000

Bread, like rice in other cultures, is a rich, natural symbol of life. Even apart from its being featured in biblical stories and its liturgical use, broken bread bears a message. It speaks of people being drawn together in a shared experience of being human, being family, being part of the earth. It is a sign pointing beyond itself to deeper truths and values.

We had hoped to be sharing together this Sunday, breaking the bread and being nourished as a community of faith. And despite the very valid reason for being careful and considerate of each others health during this time of crisis, we learn to day in the feeding of the 5000 that God is still with us and we are reminded of God's goodness to us in even what would appear to some, as mundane, everyday life experiences.

So let's remember today with the illustration we have received of feeding, multiplied in many churches in many parts of the world, that it may be sufficient to let us see how Jesus is still breaking bread. He is still feeding people, drawing them into communion with one another and with the whole world in a spirit of grateful praise in and through the life and ministry of the church, in places just like this.

Liturgy and life are still coming together around breaking bread. We must see to it that it continues, in all its rich and wonderful dimensions.

Our own ongoing development and renewal as a parish cathedral community at the moment resembles Jesus seeking God and his own refreshment in a quiet place away from the crowds, and like him, one day soon we will return to the simple extravagant gesture from Jesus to share in the bread together once more.

Thanks be to God.