

July 31, 2020

Dear Friends,

What do you have in your hands to give?

Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.

In our Gospel story on Sunday (Matthew 14:13-21), we will hear about the disciples' dilemma as they face a hungry crowd of more than 5,000 people far from any fast food establishments. All they have are five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus says, "Bring them here to me." In Jesus' hands a miracle happens. Which is how it is.

Personal and organizational anxiety come when we try to give something that we do not have in our hands to give. All God asks is that we offer *what we have*, or more accurately, what God has given us. This is a doable task, but not without cost since it affects the way we spend our time, energy, and money. God takes it from there. A principle in God's culture is that when we offer what we have, he uses and multiplies our offerings for good.

For the link to Sunday's Zoom service, please [contact me](#).

For this week's scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday's bulletin](#).

Community Requests Coming Our Way

As organizations figure out their fall plans and begin to reopen, Sunnyside receives invitations to help. For example, just yesterday [Restoring Hope Ministries](#) reached out to the 19 Sunnysiders who trained last fall to volunteer at their downtown drop-in for street-engaged youth. Restoring Hope has protocols in place to offer a safe place for downtown youth to rest, and receive provision and care. It's time for us to offer ourselves as we are able, trusting Jesus to use our small efforts to improve the well-being of others.

I had a chat with Executive Director Keltie Davidson from [Capital City Mission](#) and she said individuals from Sunnyside are offering tremendous help. Keep those donations coming to fill lunch bags for friends affected by poverty in the downtown core. They need water bottles, juice boxes, granola bars, prepackaged cookies, and small chip bags.

Giving Honour to Jesus

It is our desire and goal to honour Jesus, to live in a way that represents him well.

Here is an excerpt from one person's email about our recent in-house "Being Enamoured with Jesus" worship and prayer gathering.

Dear Kerry,

I wanted to write to offer my deep thanks and gratitude for last evening's prayer service. What an absolute blessing it was... It was what I termed to be "delicious worship". Imagine how wonderful it was to be in the midst of prayerful meditation during a thunderstorm. [Note: It happened that as we entered a time of silent prayer, focusing on the love of God, rain fell in the background.] It was soul filling, cathartic, refreshing and restful all at once. I loved its intimacy and I would suggest we have wonderfully contemplative music by Jen and Emily at every one of our services, virtual and otherwise -- it was so beautiful. I got so much out of it, and I wanted you to know just how grateful I am...

You can expect similar mid-week worship and prayer opportunities in the church sanctuary throughout the fall. Please consider taking part.

Well, my writing time is up. I must run to a very important appointment: my first haircut in five months. Small pleasures! I bet you can relate.

Keep on keeping on!

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)