

# St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

## Services on the Internet

*This is the first in the best part of 370 year that Anglican Churches in the English speaking world have been closed by order of the government. Back then they were closed at the whim of Oliver Cromwell. Today, by stark contrast, they are shuttered to inhibit the spread of a deadly disease.*

*The parochial clergy, however, are doing their best to care for the spiritual welfare of our parishioners, friends and neighbors near and far. Remember each of us is available on the telephone for folks in need of comfort, counsel or simply a chat. We can also stay in contact with each other through the weekly newsletter.*

*We had also been video recording Sunday Eucharists to enable you to maintain your Sunday worship. Watching the service on your television or computer is a poor substitute from sharing the celebration person, but we hope that it will offer you some solace in these frightening times.*

*The Eucharists will be broadcast on the internet and a link to the services will be posted on the parish website ([www.ststeve.com](http://www.ststeve.com)) at 9.00 AM every Sunday morning as long as the emergency lasts. They will remain available all week.*

*Meanwhile here are two prayers for God's aid in this time of trouble. GPH✠*

### *In Time of Peril*

O ALMIGHTY God, the supreme Governor of all things, whose power no creature is able to resist, Save and deliver us, we humbly beseech thee, from the great sickness that afflicts not only our countrymen, but all the peoples of the earth; that we, being armed with thy defense, may be preserved evermore from all perils, to glorify thee, who art the giver of all succor; through the merits of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### *For Our Country.*

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A SERMON FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

## Lessons for our times in the feeding of the 5,000

The Feeding of the 5000 is unique among the accounts of Jesus' miracles in that it was included in all four gospels. Usually, St. John did not focus so much on a miracle that had already been covered by the first three gospels. St. John saw the Feeding of the 5000 as more than just another in the series of miraculous events proving Jesus was the Messiah. This event was a foreshadowing of what was to come.

Jesus had rejoined the Disciples near the Sea of Galilee not far from Capernaum. A multitude of people had followed them, and Jesus preached to them and healed the sick. The location was a desert place far from towns which might support such a large host. Jesus looked upon the crowd and anticipated the people's

needs even before they, themselves, realized they were in trouble. He, then challenged the Disciples to provide for the people. However, the Disciples, seeing the impossibility of the situation, implored Jesus to send the people away before it was too late to find food in the far off villages.

Jesus told the people sit down on the grass. The Disciples told him the only food available was five loaves of bread and two fish in a small boy's lunch basket. Jesus looked to heaven and blessed the bread and the fishes and broke them in pieces. He then gave the food to the disciples to distribute to the people. When the Disciples had finished, all the people had been fed, numbering around 5,000 men, plus women and children. There was such a large amount left over that each of the twelve disciples was able to gather up a basketful so that none would go to waste.

This miracle presents us with several things to consider:

First, it was a physical miracle that could not be explained in any natural means and it was observed, simultaneously by thousands – a very hard thing to fake. Other miracles, such as healing the sick, might be explained away by the skeptics as some coincidental event but here, from almost nothing, a great

## Parish Prayer List

Our Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List and guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice. To add a name to the prayer list, or visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office (410) 560 6776.

**FOR RECOVERY:** Eileen, Rebecca, Catherine, Richard✠, Janis, Parisa, Daniel, Leona, Rachel, Elizabeth, Kim, Dorothy, Donna, Skip, Dan, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Heidi, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Neal, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Jan, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John Tom, Mitchell, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, David, Wade, Sifa, Eileen, Ravi, Theresa, Lisa, Larry Ricard, Judy & Scott

**FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Cameron, Caroline, Karen, Ardis, Mavis, Michael, Melba, Sam, Vinnie, Doug, Chip, Elizabeth, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Kath, Rebecca, Colin & Christian.

**IN MEMORIAM:** Mrs Frances Fox and Col. Herbert Grymes

**THOSE WHO MOURN:** Fran Burns and family. Nancy Fields & Sallie Kelly and the Grymes family.

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE:** Lt. Col. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; USAF; Cpt Fiodor Strikovski, US Army.

quantity of material was \*created\*. In all the Universe, only God can create. Here, without even so much as a quick prayer to God, Jesus created bread to feed his people. He provided them with what they needed.

Second, it provides us with another model of how we worship. The Disciples had been ministers of the Word. To this was added the Ministry of the Sacraments. Jesus did not personally give that bread to the people. He gave it to the Disciples so that they, in turn, could give it to the people. In our Communion service today, just as Jesus did before the multitude, the bread is taken, it is blessed (today in Jesus' name), it is broken and given to the people.

Third, 'The miracle illustrates the ways of Jesus' working in all ages; both in worldly and in spiritual things. The spirit that proceeds from Jesus makes the greatest results possible from the smallest means. Those means appear, as to quantity, almost insignificant but they multiply themselves, by Jesus' divine power, to supply the wants of thousands. The physical miracle is for us like the spiritual one which the power of His words works in our lives.' (Pr Neander)

Fourth, the example of the Disciples collecting the left-over bread teaches us to not waste the gift of God whether in materials or spiritual form.

Allegorically, there are some other lessons here as well.

The five loaves of bread represent our natural senses which we use to discern that which is natural in the world. In this case, the discernment of the Word as related through (especially) print and speech. The five loaves are carried in a basket which is a container and the container of the Word might be inferred to be the Holy Scriptures.

The boy who brought the bread and fish was being a servant. Allegorically, the boy might represent the priesthood of the Jews, they carried knowledge of God's word but didn't seem to benefit much from doing so.

When Jesus took up the bread, he blessed and multiplied what was there. It is here that we see that Jesus brings focus to the Scriptures – what is relevant and necessary for our understanding and salvation. Further, it is through Jesus' spirit we are taught, through those He has inspired to teach the Word and not by our own wisdom. The two fish are the patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament.

Each of the twelve Apostles filled a basket of bread left from Jesus' miraculous gift. These would become the teachings and writings of the Apostles that would be left to us.

In turning back to the account of the Miracle of 5,000, the example of the boy giving the loaves and fish to Jesus has yet another lesson for us today. The gift of the boy, in the light of how many people needed to be fed, was a very small gift. Never-the-less, the gift was taken up by Jesus, the gift was blessed and by that blessing, the gift grew and grew and grew until it could sustain many and then some. . .

Jesus was clear in his teachings on how we are to serve others by "loving our neighbors as we love ourselves." Currently, we are amid an unexpected time of want, uncertainty and apprehension. It is upon us to look within ourselves to lift and support our family and neighbors as well as ourselves.

We can give of ourselves. We can reach out by phone, email, or text to others who are alone and lift them from their solitude; Identify those who might need that human contact; Make them part of your priorities. The young and healthy can go and get those things the elderly and vulnerable might need being careful not to recklessly endanger themselves or those they seek to aid. If one is positioned to help those in financial need, do so. If you are an employer, do what you can to continue supporting those who have served you. When done in His name, God will amplify your gifts many times over.

Like the Apostles who collected the morsels of bread left over after the feeding of the 5000, be economical, be frugal. Leave some for others. Don't hoard the things that God has provided.

Today, you don't need a year's supply of TP. You don't need 1000 surgical gloves. You don't need many of things that people are frantically clearing the shelves of. If you find you have plenty, share with those that don't.

God has smiled time and again on this nation. Ours is a nation of plenty. Ours is a nation of perseverance. Ours has been a nation of faith. Let us strongly live by that faith..

AMEN & GOD BLESS — JOHN NOVICKI✠

## St Stephen's Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093  
Office: 410 560 6776 · Rector: 443 425-2420  
Vicar: 410 878-5275 · Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

[www.ststeve.com](http://www.ststeve.com)

The Very Rev. Guy P Hawtin, Dean & Rector  
The Rev. John Novicki, Vicar ·

Associate Rectors:

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. C. Daniel Bursi,  
The Rev. Dr. Norman Flowers,  
The Rev. M. Wiley Hawks & The Rev. Mark Newsome,  
Mrs Happy Riley, Director of Pastoral Care  
& Wedding Coordinator

### SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Said Eucharist

9.15am: Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

11am: Sung Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)

Choral Services (as announced) – [evensong.ststeve.com](http://evensong.ststeve.com)

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6pm: Evening Prayer

Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5pm: Family Eucharist

## Holy Week Schedule

### MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY BEFORE EASTER

April 6th, 7th & 8th — 6 PM, Holy Communion.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY April 9th

7 PM, Choral Eucharist & Stripping the Altar

### GOOD FRIDAY April 10th

NOON: Seven Last Words From The Cross

3.30 PM, Children's Way of the Cross

6 PM, Communion of the Presanctified

### HOLY SATURDAY April 11th

7.00 PM, The Great Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter

### EASTER DAY

Sunday, April 21st

8 AM: Said Holy Eucharist.

9.15 AM: Choral Eucharist,

(followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for children aged 7 and under).

11.00 AM: Choral Eucharist

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St Stephen's Anglican Church  
11856 Mays Chapel Road  
Timonium, MD 21093

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