

Communion Meditation

Jesus asks, "What is the Kingdom of Heaven like?"

The kingdom of heaven is a tiny seed, that grows wild-- giving shelter and shade to every living thing in the garden.

The kingdom of heaven is yeast -- it starts small and rises, making enough bread to feed the neighborhood.

The kingdom of heaven is a generous church lady -- who doesn't have much, but who gives everything she has so that others might live.

The kingdom of heaven is a great banquet -- where those who were on the outside have been gathered in; where there is plenty to pass around; where there is room for everyone at the table.

We come to this table knowing that many in our world go hungry, even though there is enough; many live in need, even though creation is filled with the abundance of God. Jesus has many stories and beautiful images to show us what the kingdom of Heaven is like, but they all point to the same truth: the Kingdom is abundance; and the way of Christ is love.

When Jesus asks us what the kingdom of Heaven is like, he is not just pointing to a truth for us to know: he is giving us tools to build this place of abundance; to bring this way of love into reality. To share what we have with those in need, until none are left empty. When we gather at this table, we remember the many ways and places where we have witnessed that abundant love and life in our own time. And we remember that... *Once, Jesus gathered those he loved, and told them that everything was about to change--that the world would be transformed beyond recognition-- so he left them with gifts that would carry them through. He blessed their bread, and broke it, and said "Take this, and eat; like my life, it is given for you." And then he raised his glass and said "this cup is a new covenant; like my life, it is overflowing with love for you. Do this always, to remember me."*

Let us pray: God, we give you thanks that in you, there is life; and in the way of Jesus, there is more than enough. Bless this bread and this cup to be signs of your presence among us. As we share this feast, make us mindful of those who hunger and thirst; fill us with your Spirit of compassion that might grow to feed the whole world, bringing your Kingdom about in our time. In your name we pray, amen.

