

Members of St. John's

Today's Gospel lesson gives us a window into the past to help us deal with a problem of today. The Gospel lesson tells us of a time when Jesus and his disciples faced a serious problem with no reasonable solution at hand. Jesus had attracted a large multitude of between five and ten thousand people to hear his message. Remember that we are only told, in the Gospel lesson, the number of men but, certainly, there were as many or more women and children in attendance as well. How to feed so many with so little on a deserted mountain? Jesus did not bring down mountains of food from heaven to fit the need but, through the power of faith, was able to fill all— with food left over. Faith in the love and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ was the solution when all seemed to be lost.

Today, we too seem to be on a lonely mountain and in grave danger of lack of the proper materials for our survival. Panic and hopelessness are one path we could walk or we can, again, lean on our faith to see us through this fearful time. Although we are temporarily separated from our religious home of St. John's, the faith which sustains us, travels with us wherever we go. I encourage you to fight the fears of today by remembering the lesson of the Good Samaritan. Remember, the priest and the Levite, upon seeing the needy man, passed by on the other side of the road but the Good Samaritan stopped and cared for the injured without concern for himself. Now is our time to join together and be a "good Samaritan" in our time. As Jesus encouraged us "Go and do thou likewise". Take care, not only of yourselves, but reach out to those who now need you the most. Use the phone, the Internet and the mail to let others know that you are thinking of them and care about them. Bring the joy of a positive conversation or a funny story or a Bible reading or a shared prayer. You may well be the "manna from heaven" that they need to see them through. As we pull together as Christians, we will be following the lesson of the Good Samaritan and the feeding of the 5,000. Mahatma Gandhi is credited with the saying "The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable member". Who will stand up in this hour of danger and want? Think of yourself as saying to Jesus, "Here I am Lord, Send me".

May God be with you all and keep you safe every moment of this time we are apart.

Geoffrey Holland
Senior Warden