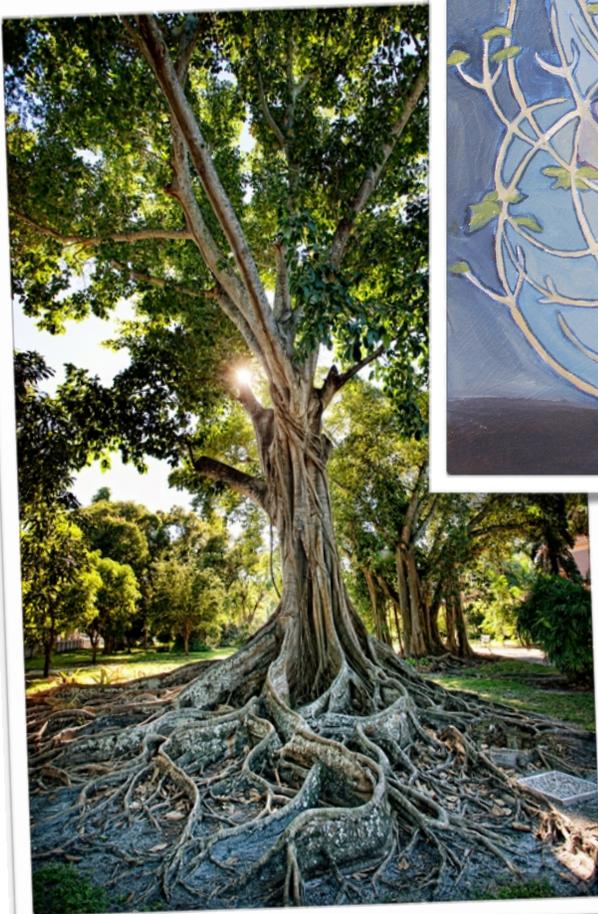


PACIFIC School of Religion

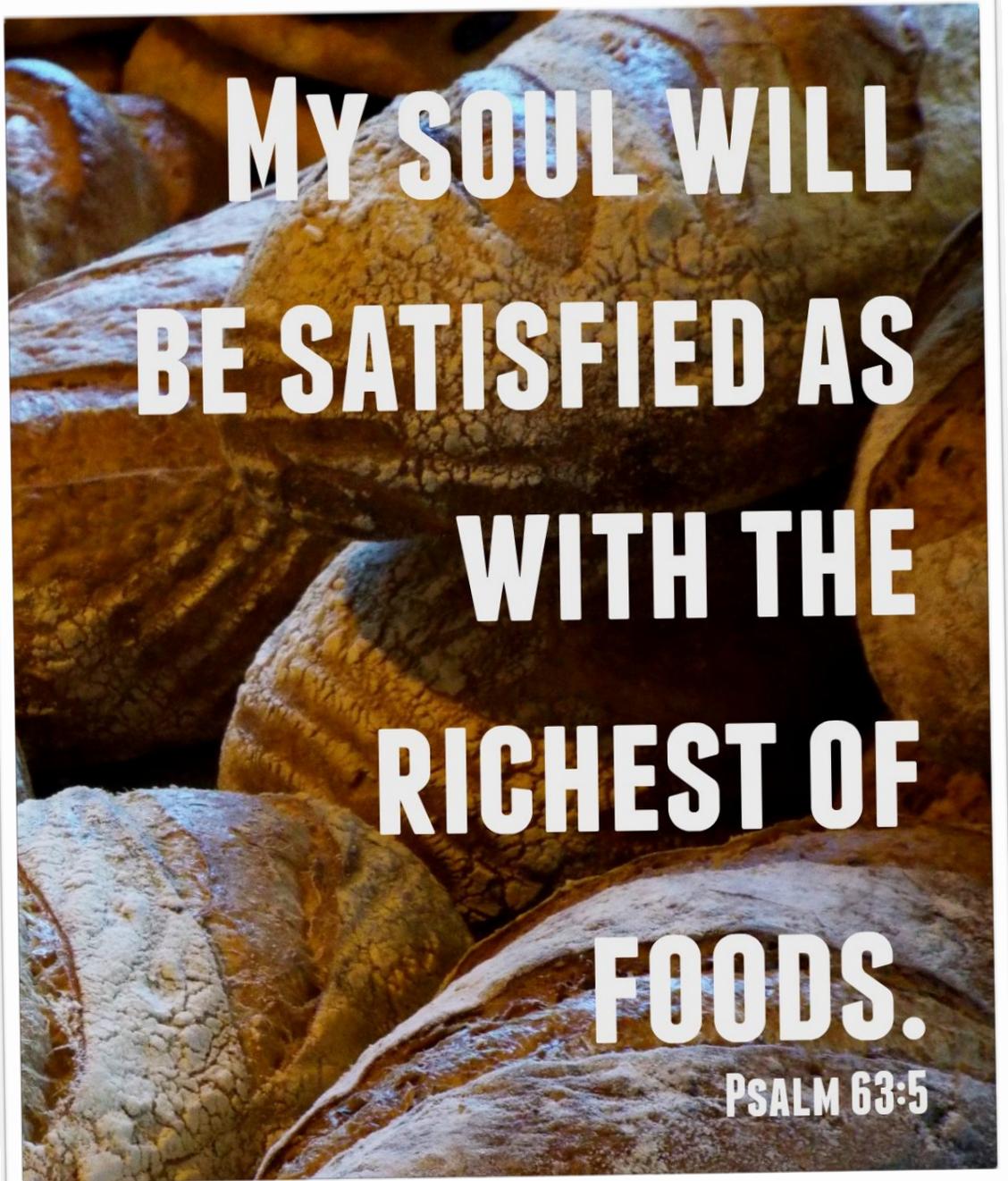
BERKELEY, CA

Seminary Sunday

Worship Materials



1. <http://www.edisonfordwinterstatesblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/mysore-fig-tree-edison-ford-winter-estates.jpg>
2. <http://askmissa.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Fig-Tree-11x-141.bmp>
3. http://static01.nyt.com/images/2012/08/29/dining/29APPE1_SPAN/29APPE1-articleLarge.jpg



Scripture Readings (from the Revised Common Lectionary)

...why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?... Isaiah 55:1-9

...My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast and my mouth praises you with joyful lips... Psalm 63:1-8

...For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none...Why should it be wasting the soil? ... Luke 13:1-9

Music Ideas



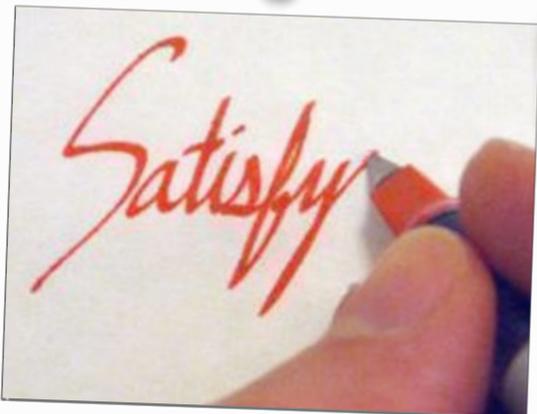
Opening Songs

Praise the Source of Faith and Learning

New Century Hymnal #411 / The Faith We Sing #2004

Ground and Source of All That Is

Sing! Prayer and Praise #89



Proclaiming Songs

We Come to the Hungry Feast

Evangelical Lutheran Worship #479

You Who Are Thirsty

The Faith We Sing #2132

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Chalice Hymnal #614 / The Faith We Sing #2153



Closing Songs

Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)

New Century Hymnal #528

United Methodist Hymnal #583

Chalice Hymnal #478

Come to Tend God's Garden

New Century Hymnal #586

Liturgy Ideas

Call to Worship

Leader: Thirsty. We are thirsty. Our souls thirst for God.

Assembly: We are parched with longing for wisdom and knowledge.

Leader: Hungry. We are hungry. Our flesh faints for God.

Assembly: We are famished with busyness that does not satisfy.

Leader: Wilting. We are wilting. As in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Assembly: We are bent low by the cares and struggles of the world.

Leader: The Source of Life flows toward us, calling:

Assembly: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.

Leader: Love Incarnate reaches out to us every moment, saying:

Assembly: Everyone who hungers, come, delight in this feast.

Leader: The Spirit moves among us, singing:

Assembly: Everyone who wilts, come, nourish your roots.

Leader: With all of our yearnings we gather together.

Assembly: Let us worship God, who satisfies our hearts with steadfast love.

Prayer of Invocation

Source of Life, God of root and seed, branch and fruit, we thank you for this time to dwell together in your life-nourishing presence. We come to this sanctuary with our deepest questions and our greatest longings to look upon you. As we worship, dig deeply into our souls with your wisdom, spread compost around our spirits with your grace, cultivate our hearts with your justice, so that we might bear the fruit of your love in our lives. Through our prayer and praise, keep our faith forever growing. Amen.



Offering

Call to the Offering

God calls us to witness the thirst of our neighbors, for knowledge, for justice, for flourishing. God invites us to work together to nourish and sustain a hungry world. In response to this call and invitation, let us share our gifts that they might be used in partnership with others to extend God's love far beyond our own reach.

Prayer of Dedication

Bread of Life, we thank you for all the ways you nourish us and for the opportunities we have to sustain one another through these gifts. We thank you for those who hear and respond to the call to lead your people and for the institutions, mentors and teachers who help to prepare them. Use these gifts to nourish their roots, that we might each take up our parts in the drama of redeeming love and work together to transform the world. Fed by love and hungry for change, we pray. Amen.



Litany of Thanksgiving for a Life of Faith and Learning

inspired by a hymn text by Carl P. Daw, "For the Splendor of Creation"

Leader: For the splendor of creation that draws us to inquire,

Assembly: nourish us with curiosity, we pray.

Leader: for the mysteries of knowledge to which our hearts aspire,

Assembly: nourish us with questions, we pray.

Leader: for the deep and subtle beauties which delight the eye and ear,

Assembly: nourish us with wonder, we pray.

Leader: for a keen and searching mind, and the struggle to be clear,

Assembly: nourish us with doubts, we pray.

Leader: for the unexplained remainder, for the puzzling and the odd,

Assembly: nourish us with imagination, we pray.

Leader: for the joy and stretch of learning,

Assembly: we give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For the thinkers past and present whose bounty we digest,

Assembly: satisfy us with wisdom, we pray.

Leader: for the teachers who inspire leaders to put forth their best,

Assembly: satisfy us with understanding, we pray.

Leader: for co-learners and companions, and the ways our living teaches,

Assembly: satisfy us with openness, we pray.

Leader: for the searching, seeking mind and a faith that always reaches,

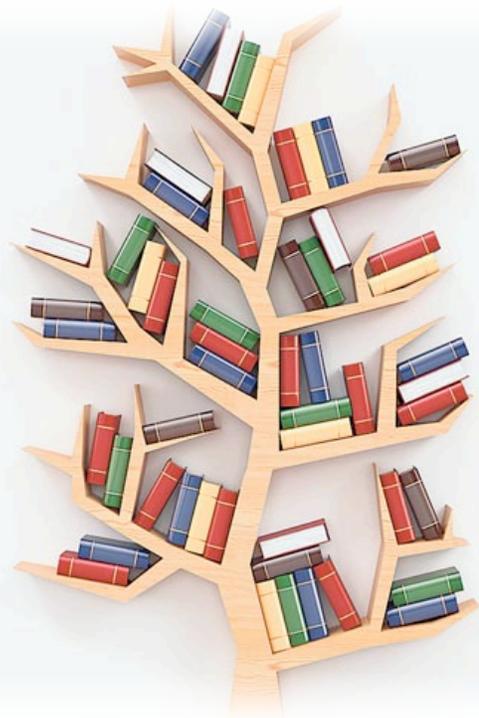
Assembly: satisfy us with insight, we pray.

Leader: for the classrooms welcoming our questions small and broad,

Assembly: satisfy us with vision, we pray.

Leader: for the places of deep learning,

Assembly: we give you thanks, O God.



Ritual Ideas

Nourished Roots, Seeking Truths

Prepare a table or several stations around the gathering space with a tray or pots of dirt, some compost, pens and sheets of seed paper (<http://www.greenfieldpaper.com/AWSCategories/c/71/GROWANOTE-PLANTABLE-SEED-PAPER>).

Invite participants to respond to the word proclaimed by writing down on the seed paper their questions of deepest meaning, the things they most want to learn more about God, their faith, and the world.

Give them the opportunity to add some compost to the dirt, getting their hands dirty by mixing it in as they consider the ways in which their spiritual roots are nourished. Then invite them to plant their questions in dirt and say a prayer for the ways they might be nourished and nourish their faith.



The Hungry Feast

Place index cards or slips of paper in people's bulletins or at their seats. Set your communion table or another table with empty plates or bowls and cups. During the time of community prayer, invite people to write down things that they, the community, or the world are hungering or thirsting for. Ask people to come forward and place their prayers in the empty plates and cups. Invite them to pick up some one else's prayer to hold in thoughtful intention throughout the week, as a reminder that we are nourished by the ways in which our compassion is expanded by the cares and concerns of others.