

A Litany of Sacred Play and Holy Lament

Leader: God of sacred play and holy lament, we bless you for the wonder and awe with which the littlest disciples, the children, see the world, and we lament the anguish of their suffering.

People: **In thanksgiving, we remember your Son, Jesus the Christ, who did not turn the children away. In the midst of opposition, he placed children in the center of the crowd, took them on his lap, laid hands on them, and blessed them.**

Leader: May we as people of the new covenant, follow Jesus and so also bless the children. Open our eyes and ears that we would see and hear the children instead of turning away.

People: **Unclasp our hands to offer all we have and all we are, as did the young boy on the hillside with his meager lunch of bread and fish offered to Jesus.**

All: **Empower and equip us for ministry, loving God, that all children would know dignity, hospitality, and well-being in mind, body, and spirit. Amen.**

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Christian Hospitality at the Sunday Table

November 9, 2003

Compiled by Cheryl Magrini, 2003.

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- About the ritual of maté drinking, its origins and meanings: See "Yerba Mate" on the internet at www.noborders.net/mate.

Justice Ministry with and for Children

November 10, 2003

Compiled by Diane Olson, 2003.

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Seeding Faith: Growing Sacramental Awareness in a Sunday School Garden

November 10, 2003

Compiled by Dori Baker, 2003

Selected Sources

Children's books about gardening, caring for the Earth, fostering sacramental awareness:

The Trellis and the Seed, Jan Karon; Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain, Beatriz Vidal; Miss Rumphius, Barbara Cooney; God Speaks to Us in Feeding Stories, Mary Ann Getty-Sullivan; Night Tree, Eve Bunting; The Great Kapok Tree, Lynne Cherry; When the Wind Stops, Charlotte Zolotow; The Carrot Seed, Ruth Krauss; The Apple Pie Tree, Zoe Hall; Ready, Set, Grow, Suzanne Frutig Bales; The Lonely Scarecrow, Tim Preston; The People Who Hugged The Trees, Deborah Lee Rose; The Enchanted Gardening Book, Alice Herck; Brother Eagle Sister Sky, Susan Jeffers; Pumpkin, Pumpkin, Jeanne Titherington; Growing Vegetable Soup, Lois Ehlert; Jody's Beans, Malachy Doyle; Stone Soup, any version of this folk tale.

Books of theology, poetry, spirituality with themes of gardens and/or sacraments:

Like a Garden: A Biblical Spirituality of Growth, Sara Covin Juengst; Sacraments of Life, Leonardo Boff; Absolute Trust in the Goodness of the Earth, Alice Walker; Honoring the Body: Meditations on Christian Practice, Stephanie Paulsell; Loaves of Fun: A History of Bread with Activities and Recipes from Around the World, Elizabeth M. Harbison; Peace is Every Step: the Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life, Thich Nhat Hanh.

***“Bread! Bread!” and Other Sacred Table Stories
as Voiced by Children in Storyboard Art***
Selected Bibliography of Books for Children
Compiled by Cheryl Magrini, 2003

Bread, Bread, Bread by Ann Morris includes photographs by Ken Heyman of people eating and baking varieties of bread from around the world. New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1995.

Bread is for Eating by David and Phillis Gershator portrays the journey of bread from the field to the table. The music and words to the refrain, “El pan es para comer,” (Bread is for eating.) are included. New York: Holt, 1995.

Everybody Bakes Bread by Norah Dooley is the story of Carrie as her mother sends her out on a rainy day looking for a “three-handled” rolling pin and the varied breads she discovers being baked. Includes recipes. Minneapolis, Corolrhoda Books, Inc., 1996.

God Speaks to Us in Feeding Stories with Bible stories adapted by Mary Ann Getty-Sullivan includes emotive illustrations by Marygrace Dulski Antkowski that will bring a fresh reading to these Bible stories for children and adults both. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1997.

Grandpa’s Soup by Eiko Kadono tells the story of Grandpa’s journey through grief for his wife while he makes soup and shares with children and animals in the neighborhood. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Jalepeño Bagels by Natasha Wing is the story of a Mexican Jewish American family and the boy Pablo. The story takes place at the Los Bagels Bakery & Café in Arcata, California, a real bagel bakery and includes actual bakery recipes. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1996.

Loaves of Fun by Elizabeth M. Harbison includes the interesting history of international varieties of bread along with recipes from around the world. Younger children will need help of an adult to bake the recipes. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 1997.

The Everything Kids’ Cookbook by Sandra K. Nissenberg, M.S., R.D. is a children’s cookbook for third graders on up. Younger children could use the cookbook with an adult’s help. Avon, MA: Adams Media Corporation, 2002.

The Family Story Bible by Ralph Milton is a *story Bible* that includes selections from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.

The Matzah That Papa Brought Home by Fran Manushkin tells the story of the Passover celebration in the style of the nursery rhyme “This is the House That Jack Built” and lends itself to the listeners chiming in once they hear the beginning of the story. New York: Scholastic Books, 1995.