

Summer 2023 Conference
Christians Caring for Creation (C3)
Sardis Baptist Church, NC

Food and Faith: From Dirt to Dessert

Embracing Our Vocation as Faithful Stewards of Creation





Invitation to Discipleship

June 5: World Environment Day - Beat Plastic Pollution

June 13: National Weed Your Garden Day



How does our
food,
forks and
food practices
glorify God?

Gen 1:31
1 Cor 10:31

- God, the Gardener
- Jesus, the Incarnation
- Hospitality as Justice



God, the Gardener

**Creator God, You made us and all that is, calling creation good.
Teach us again the nature of goodness and the ways of cherishing your gifts.
Cultivate this fruit of the Spirit in our lives,
so that we may reflect your goodness and justice in the world.
God of abundance, open our eyes that we might see your gifts in the fruit of the
ground, the beloved ones around our tables, and in the ways we return back to
the earth what she has gifted to sustain our bodies, minds, and spirits.
Let our plates be pleasing to you,
our meals speak of your generosity as our Creator and
our days be filled with pleasure and joy in food and community
that reflect your heart.**

Amen

Adapted From Life Around the Table,
Eating Together Faithfully,
Online Resource
<https://lifearoundthetable.org/etf/>
p. 49



God, the Gardener

A gift from Sr. Rose Marie Tresp, RSM
Director of Justice for Sisters of Mercy

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things!

Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad, and rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil

Joel 2:21-24



Food is God's love made delicious

Norman Wirzba, *Food and Faith* (2019)

Dr. Norman Wirzba, a Canadian theologian and Gilbert T. Rowe Distinguished Professor of Christian Theology at Duke Divinity School, NC

"We come to know
God's goodness in the
language of the plants
and animals and stars
and kernels on an ear of
corn"

Tim Streiff, *CRL Magazine* (Summer 2022)





“...the universe is a
communion of subjects
rather than a collection of
objects ...
Existence itself is derived
from and sustained by this
intimacy of each being
with every other being of
the universe”



**We are both Gardener
and Garden**

**Life Depends Upon
Death...**

**Earth's Cadence of
Reciprocity ... Feeding
and Being Fed**

The Chef
does everything
but cook
— that's what
wives are for!



I'm giving my wife a
Kenwood Chef

A TIRED WOMAN MAKES A POOR WIFE



How You Can Have Time for Home and for Husband, Too!

How can you be a comfort to your husband and a help to your children, if you are tired out all the time? Too many women work so hard over their homes that they have no time for play. Then they wonder why their husbands seem restless, and their children are a burden instead of a joy.

Here's a suggestion that has been followed by millions of women; it makes their housework much easier, means nourishing, appetizing meals, and saves a good deal of money, too. Several times a week, serve

never seems to get tired of it. For the children's lunch give them this savory dish—with milk and fruit you have a complete meal that's on the table in a jiffy. For dinner use Franco-American as a side dish, or it is perfectly wonderful to make left-overs go further and taste better.

Franco-American is not like ordinary ready-cooked spaghetti. Franco-American is the kind with the extra good sauce—contains eleven savory ingredients. It usually costs only 10¢ a can, and that's less than a portion.



"In 1910, one in seven farmers were African-American and held titles to approximately 16-19 million acres of farmland. Over the next century, **98% of Black farmers were dispossessed** through discriminatory practices at the USDA and various federal farm programs. These farmers were often **denied loans and credit, lacked access to legal defense** against fraud, and experienced "outright acts of **violence and intimidation**" resulting in a **90% loss of Black-owned farmland in the US.**



We don't pay the true costs for our food...

Unaccounted costs are approximately \$100 billion ... child labor, unlivable wages and a lack of standard employment benefits such as healthcare and occupational health and safety



Green Revolution

Mid 20th century

Thesis: To solve world hunger, increase production of food grains (especially wheat and rice).

This was done by introducing into developing countries new, **high-yielding varieties** that required large amounts of **chemical fertilizers and pesticides** to produce their high yields... Poor farmers, unable to afford the fertilizers and pesticides, had even lower yields with these grains than with the traditional crops (that were better suited to the ecosystems)

Duplin County, North Carolina after Hurricane Florence



Resident's House

Swine Manure Lagoon



Photo source: Rick Dove, Waterkeeper Alliance.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)



Night Prayer
by Michael Cook

We have Forgotten Who and Whose We Are

For if we cannot savor
food, then how can we
savor, serve and tend
each other, the land, or
God?

Dan Castillo, PhD 2022 at
<https://dornsife.usc.edu/iacs/the-image-of-god-the-gardener/>

Reconciliation means that we heal that which fractures our communities

Every year, U.S. landfills and trash incinerators receive **167 MILLION TONS** of garbage.

> 50% of typical municipal garbage set out at the curb is compostable.

Landfills and incinerators are dangerous. Every bag thrown out contributes to:



Pollution of surrounding soil, air, and water



Climate change



Health hazards to humans and animals



21% is food scraps alone

15% paper/paperboard

8% yard trimmings

8% wood waste

SOURCES:

Brenda Platt, Nora Goldstein, Craig Coker, and Sally Brown, *The State of Composting in the U.S.: What, Why, Where, & How*, Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), June 2015.
US EPA, *Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: Facts and Figures 2013*, June 2015, pp. 12, 46.
Brenda Platt, Eric Lombardi, and David Ciptet, *Stop Trashing the Climate*, Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), 2008.
Brenda Platt, Bobby Bell, and Cameron Harsh, *Pay Dirt: Composting in Maryland to Reduce Waste, Create Jobs & Protect the Bay*, Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), May 2013.
Mike Ewall, *Trash Incineration Factsheet*, Energy Justice Network web page, <http://www.energyjustice.net>, accessed April 2016.

ILSR INSTITUTE FOR
Local Self-Reliance

To learn more, visit: ilsr.org/compost-impacts

Remember Joel 2:21-24



Photo Credit: Composting for Community Initiative at the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (2020)



Jesus, Incarnate

Incarnate God, you who became flesh to dwell among us

Teach us what it means to be bodies living in a particular place.

Move us to sink our roots deep into the soil, watersheds, and lives around us

Form us into beloved places bearing witness to your great love

Amen

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Food is common ground, a universe experience, and a spiritual encounter because food is both a manifestation of God's divine love and Earth's material ability to nourish and be nourished

Food is integral to our vocation as gardeners and garden ... as Imago Dei

Jesus, Incarnate



Sept 2020 Twitter Feed
Pontifical Academy Life
@PontAcadLife
(Official Catholic Vatican Twitter Feed)

"An image that is worth a speech"

a photo of Michelangelo's Pietà featuring a Black Jesus -- Speaks to European Immigration Crisis

Jesus is portrayed as a 22-year-old Nigerian who fled his country to avoid persecution due to his Christian faith

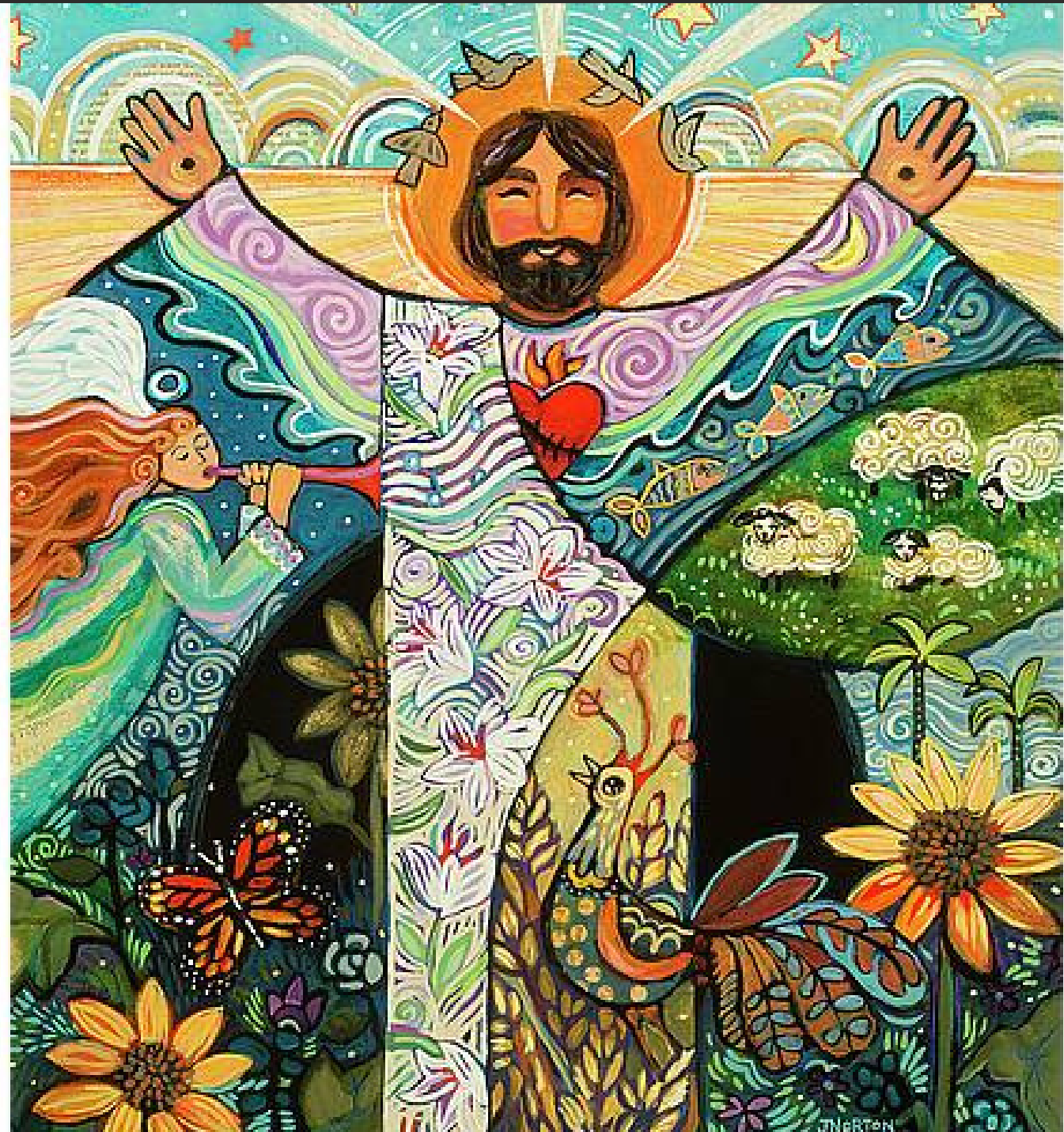
<https://baptistnews.com/article/advent-race-and-the-intimacy-of-incarnation-why-we-must-see-beyond-a-white-baby-jesus/>

Jesus, Incarnate

“Our call to discipleship may well be a call to remember our kinship with the fertile earth...soil is more like a relative than a resource; it is to be respected, not just used.”

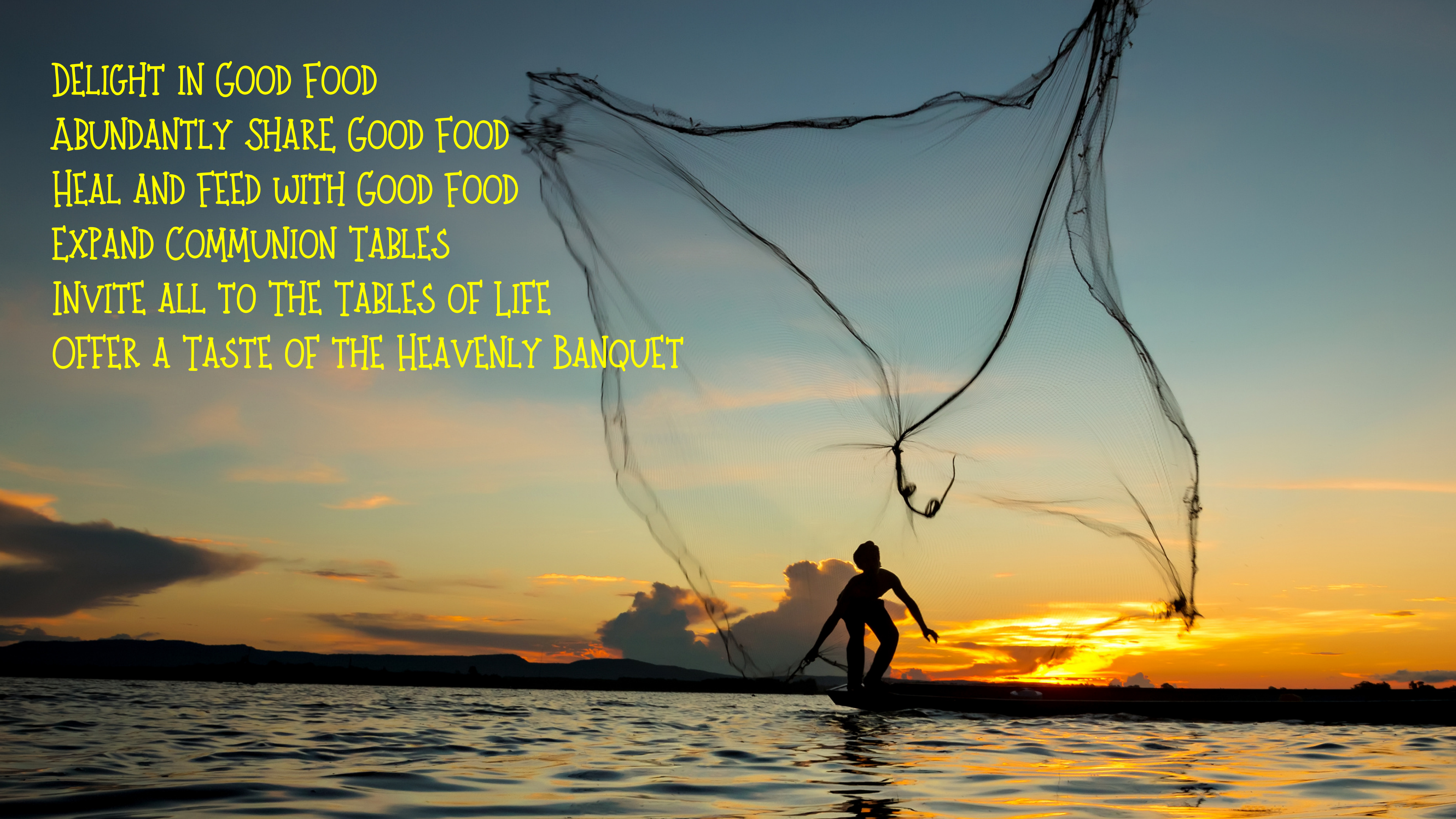
Dr. Ellen Davis

Incarnational eating stems from a deep knowledge of our places, food, and eating practices. This wisdom can open our eyes to the injustices embedded in our food systems and the ways we eat.



"All Creation Sings His Praise" By Jen Norton
Prints Available online

DELIGHT IN GOOD FOOD
ABUNDANTLY SHARE GOOD FOOD
HEAL AND FEED WITH GOOD FOOD
EXPAND COMMUNION TABLES
INVITE ALL TO THE TABLES OF LIFE
OFFER A TASTE OF THE HEAVENLY BANQUET



Every day when
we eat faithfully
we are
expanding the
grace offered at
the communion
table into
ordinary and
necessary
moments of our
lives ... like the
early church did!



**1) All people
having access to
food that is fresh,
healthy,
affordable, and
culturally
appropriate**

**2) Everyone in the
food system and
supply chain are
compensated
fairly and have
safe working and
living conditions**

**3) Food is produced or tended (animals) or
caught (fish) and used in sustainable ways
that promote the flourishing of Earth**

Food justice



The image features two silver forks positioned horizontally, each holding a portion of spaghetti. The spaghetti strands are intertwined between the two forks, creating a bridge-like structure. The background is a solid, dark black, which makes the metallic sheen of the forks and the pale yellow of the spaghetti stand out. The text is overlaid on the upper and lower portions of the image.

**Hospitality as Justice;
Justice as Hospitality**

Food Justice as good food is the
promise of the Divine Banquet
and the spiritual power of our
forks is the ability to offer a taste
of this divine banquet to ourselves
and others in the here and now --
around the many tables
of our lives



**Racism ...Discrimination...Death...Obesity...Food Apartheid...Diabetes...
Lower Life Expectancy...Pregnancy related mortality**



**Air and Water Pollution...Racism ...Discrimination...Methane...
Climate Change...Wastefulness**



**Gift Economy... Relational not Transactional...Purchasing Power...Leverage gifts for good food...
Gardens, Kitchens, and Tables as Centers of Civic & Spiritual Engagement...**



TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

2019 FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS MARKET

AT ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM

Men and women around the world have a simple dream—to earn an honest living, to provide for their children and to be gainfully employed in a job that brings dignity and joy. Ten Thousand Villages, the oldest and largest Fair Trade non-profit organization in North America, partners with thousands of talented artisans around the world in healthy business relationships. And they're presenting a Fair Trade Christmas Market at St. Andrew's United Church.

JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 23 and make a positive difference by purchasing Fair Trade handcrafted gifts, decorations and products for the Christmas season.

St. Andrew's United Church
1044 St. George's Avenue in North Vancouver, BC V7L 3H6 • 604-985-0408
events@st-andrews-united.ca • www.st-andrews-united.ca

**Eat Closer to Earth... Become a Locavore... CSA Supporter... Church land for Gardens...
Make Farmers Markets Accessible (SNAP/EBT)... Host Fair Trade Markets**



Move from Charity to Justice Models of Service...Deeply Listen to the Spirit Moving...Leverage Your Gifts in Your Sphere of Influence to Cultivate Good Food and Table Fellowship

Food & Faith

From Dirt to Dessert



Catherine Wright

IN COLLABORATION WITH
R. Shea Watts | Harry Workman

A Time to Share

Questions, Comments, Ideas

www.thewrightecotheologian.com

