

## FORETASTE OF A WORLD REMADE

*One of five orders for an Agape prepared with the Perth and Kinross Iona Community Family Group by Douglas Galbraith, available as a download from Wild Goose Publications (see Reviews p68).*

### AGAPE 2

#### Theme: Bread

*A candle is lit.*

*Each new paragraph is read by the next person in the circle. Material in **bold** is said by all together.*

Remembering their teacher and friend  
who taught and teased when they ate together,  
in people's homes, on a Galilean beach,  
on remote hillsides – making a little go a long way,

his followers shared their meals with joy,  
praising God as they broke bread together,  
holding all their possessions in common,  
and sharing with any who were in need.

*Bread and cup are placed on the table.*

*One of the following is read:*

Exodus 16:4-12,	Manna in the wilderness
Psalms 104:10-15,	Bread to strengthen the human heart
Isaiah 55:1-3,	Why spend money on what is not bread?
John 6:35-40,	I am the bread of life
John 21:9-14,	Bread and fish at daybreak
Acts 27:33-38,	Bread at a time of danger
1 Corinthians 5:6-8,	Unleavened bread
1 Corinthians 10:14-22,	Bread sacrificed to idols

*Host*

The farmhand sows, the children winnow, the woman bakes ...

The seed falls to the earth and grows in darkness.  
It bears fruit, to be gathered and threshed,  
crushed and ground in the mill to make flour.

**Nurturing God, tend our continuing growth to Christian maturity,  
be it through dark times or in the warmth of love and care,  
through the ritual of the church, in the struggle of prayer and service.  
Keep us one with sisters and brothers crushed by persecution  
that we may find hope in the one who was crucified and was raised.**

*Host*

The farmhand sows, the children winnow, the woman bakes ...

The water is brought to the flour, moistening and blending,  
water from the ancient depths of the earth.

Oil and salt bring savour, strengthening the dough,  
preserving and giving texture to the loaf.

**Recalling the waters of baptism, may we be open to the Spirit  
that we may continually be moistened<sup>1</sup> and made resilient,  
so that, as we go about our lives and our work,  
the dull and dry places may be infused with flavour  
and the hopeless rise to grasp new life.**

*Host*

The farmhand sows, the children winnow, the woman bakes ...

The baker kneads the dough, pressing the leaven to every part,  
the yeast which makes the mixture live, spread, combine –  
arms and hands vigorous, persistent, skilful, intimate –  
so that with fire the ingredients will know a transformation.

**Combined into the body of Christ, may we be the yeast,  
a saving leaven which permeates humankind,  
infectious in bringing reconciliation where society is fragmented,  
where ancient fears bring staleness and decay,  
so that together we may rise towards the Kingdom of God.**

*Host*

The farmhand sows, the children winnow, the woman bakes ...

In the preparation of the Eucharistic bread  
the ordinary things of earth become extraordinary

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1 This was a favourite image used in connection with the Holy Spirit by Hildegard of Bingen, 12th-century abbess, polymath, writer, composer and adviser to Popes and other church leaders.

and all creation is found to be holy;  
matter is no longer mundane, but part of the mystery  
of the power and presence of God.

**May the care of creation be a precious task,  
as today deforestation, drought and flood today  
place a burden upon the land.**

**Conflict and economic crisis destroy communities  
so that the land cannot be tended and brought to fruition,  
and lack of water threatens the lives of so many.**

*Host*

The farmhand sows, the children winnow, the woman bakes, God's people  
pray ... and share ... and serve ...

*Water/wine and bread/shortbread are shared.*

*Silence is kept for a time.*

*The host then says:*

Let us pray

*When the prayers are over, the host says:*

Jesus, teaching his disciples, said:

Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.<sup>2</sup>

*The Peace is shared.*

*The host says:*

Go from this place in the peace of Christ.

**May God's peace be on this house.**

*The candle is extinguished*