

February 24, 2008

Lifestyles dominated by consumerism despoil the earth and deplete resources that could be shared with the poor. Such lifestyles separate us from the grace and humility of our Lord Jesus Christ, who emptied himself for our sakes to give us another way of living.

—The Simple Life, 1996 Annual Conference Statement.

Gathering and Praising

Music for Meditation

*Be receptive to the Spirit of God as worship begins
with Music for Meditation*

Prelude and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Welcome and Announcements

***Passing the Peace**

***Call to Worship:**

One: Come, as stewards of God's mysteries.
Gather as servants of Jesus Christ.

**All: Surely Christ will feed us with living bread.
We will be clothed with garments of righteousness.**

One: Be ready to receive more than you can ask.
Be ready to give more than you thought you had.

**All: God will equip us with everything we need.
We will learn how to live simply in God's realm.**

***Invocation**

***Hymn:** *Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit* #28

First Scripture Reading: *Romans 12: 1-2, from The Message*

Songs of Praise: *Seek ye first the kingdom of God* #324

When all thy mercies, O my God #72

Confessing Our Need Earle W. Fike, Jr.

One: Our God, hear our confession: Life is full.
We are surrounded by computers and fax machines,
tranquilizers and stimulants, diet pills and health clubs.

All: Still we are empty; break to us the bread of life.

One: Life is enlightened. We have medicine, psychology,
psychiatry, motivational research,
the power of positive thinking, daily advice columns.

All: Still we are confused; break to us the bread of life.

One: Life is pleasure. We have televisions, VCR's,
night clubs, big-screen movies, compact discs, fancy cars,
Monday Night Football, and hot tubs.

**All: Still we are restless and dissatisfied;
break to us the bread of life.**

One: Our loving God, by our confession, we admit
life is many things, but it is not what it should be.
Forgive us for the wrong kind of hunger that sits before a table
full of luxuries and growls for more, while most of the world
cries for crumbs. Forgive us for supposing that a person's life
consists of all the abundance of things possessed.

**All: O Lord, our need is to have the bread of life broken to us daily.
Amen.**

Hymn: *Break thou the bread of life* #360

Proclaiming

Children's story Tom August

Scriptures: *Matthew 6: 19-21; 24-34*

Message: *Non-conformity and Simple Living 300 years later*

Hymn: *Heart and mind, possessions, Lord* #392

Praying

"For this we rejoice..."

"For this we pray..."

Prayer for all God's children

Offering

Invitation to Giving

Offertory Choir

***Offertory Response:** *Grant us, Lord, the grace* #388

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sending

***Hymn:** *This is my Father's world* #154

***Benediction**

***Sending Christ's light out into the world**

***Postlude**

* Please stand as you are able.