

World Communion Sunday

Presentation of the Breads

Katherine Hawker
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Presentation of the Breads (1995)

Leader:

These breads are symbols of the many different peoples within the family of God.

Presenter 1, placing bread on communion table says:

I offer this Spicy Tea Bread in honor of the men and women in Ethiopia. May we remember Africa's first Christian people, who struggle with poverty, drought, famine, locusts, and civil war.

Presenter 2, placing bread on communion table says:

I offer this Pita Bread in honor of the people of the Middle East. May we remember the people of Lebanon, Palestine, and Israel who are working together in these weeks to form an amazing new peace among their countries.

Presenter 3, placing bread on communion table says:

I offer this Banana Bread in honor of the people of Jamaica. May we remember that beyond the tourism ads there are hundreds of thousands of sisters and brothers facing incredible challenges with violence and poverty.

Presenter 4, placing bread on communion table says:

I offer this Corn Bread in honor of the Native Americans. May we remember this people whose strength and perseverance has enabled them to survive through centuries of persecution.

Presenter 5, placing bread on communion table says:

I offer this Honey Wheat Bread in honor of the people of Tekonsha.* May we remember that as we live and work in this place, we are called to live responsibly within God's world and in harmony with God's people.

Presentation of the Breads (2007)

We offer this bread in remembrance of Nan-e Barbari in honor of the people of Iran where one generation's quest for renewed spirituality has left the next generation entangled in the rigidity of theocracy.

We offer this bread in remembrance of Nan-i Afghani in honor of the people of Afghanistan where the ghoulish remnants of skirmishes between world powers is a land littered with unspent landmines.

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We offer this bread in remembrance of Dduk
in honor of the people of Korea
where tyranny has divided a people and limited the marketplace
in a land already over-farmed and under-producing.

We offer this bread in remembrance of Pita Bread
in honor of the people of Iraq
where anarchy has replaced tyranny
and religion is a tool used in ethnic warring.

Notes:

*Tekonsha is the name of the community in which we originally shared this litany.

Editing: As you can see from the 1995 version, the prayerful comments about Palestine and Israel need to be revised. Actually I have revised this each year that we've used it to reflect the current context.

Note about the breads: Recipes to make these various breads can be found in the Mennonite cookbook, "Extending the Table". But the specifications of the bread are not as important as the prayerful presentation. (In other words - don't sweat the small stuff.)