



Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” The disciples replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.”

— Matthew 14:16

As the season turns we have abundance all around us: tomatoes, squash, honey, eggs and blueberries. Our blueberry branches are so full that they bend to the ground. Everyday we eat blueberries right off the bush as we fill buckets. We freeze the berries, make pies from them and give them away.

Remembering our abundance, we can understand how the five thousand in Matthew’s Gospel were fed. We know the facts—a gathered community, some food and love. This is the truth of abundance which happened on a hillside in Galilee, and which happens daily when migrant workers share lunch at a Vermont dairy farm or when a million microbes feast in a compost pile. The abundance of God is a love that is lived out in community every day. How can we share the bounty of our harvest?

“We have nothing,” the disciples responded. Today, close to a billion people in the world are hungry. God’s abundance is not evident to them. Jesus says, “Bring your ‘nothing’ to me.” He blesses the fish and bread and then proceeds to distribute food to the masses. As Matthew tells the story, “All were filled.”

Sharing begins with awareness: of our community, of the abundance of blueberries, of nets full of fish and baskets full of bread.

— Lisa Ransom