

Face to Face

August 2, 2026

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Matthew 14:13-21

Carrie Breck had her hands full tending to five children while making meals, washing laundry, and knitting socks for those many little feet. And yet the young homemaker, born in 1855, found the time to write poetry — lyrical words inspired by her praises to God that were always on the tip of her tongue.

It is said that many times she wondered, while busily doing chores, what it would be like to see Christ. So, with the words from 1 Corinthians 13 on her heart that spoke of seeing through a dark glass now but then seeing the heavenly promise clearly — face to face — she began writing.

Her poem would later become the beloved hymn, “Face to Face with Christ My Savior,” which was first sung in 1899.

*Only faintly now I see him | With the darkened veil between | But a blessed day is coming |
When his glory shall be seen.*

Five thousand people once had a blessed day that came to them unexpectedly. They gathered on the mountainside hungry to hear Jesus’ beautiful words of life — and found themselves soon hungry for something to silent their growling bellies.

Jesus’ friends were quick to suggest sending them away to get their dinners in the surrounding villages. Jesus wouldn’t have that. He told his friends to give the crowd something to eat. I could only imagine the shock on their faces as they just didn’t know how they would feed such masses.

When told there was nothing but five loaves of bread and two fish on hand, Jesus had them bring the measly offering to him. It was then he blessed and broke the loaves and had the food distributed. Everyone had their fill and still there was enough leftover bread to overflow 12 baskets.

There will be a day when we will all come face to face with Christ our Savior. A day when all his glory shall be seen. But until then, we need to keep alert to the glimpses of glory that shine now in the dark. We need to train our eyes to see the God moments. We need to actively seek those God moments, for they are everywhere. Miracles still abound. There is always a measly loaf of bread in our lives waiting to bless, break and share.

Dazzling God, we know that while now we see dimly in a mirror, we will come face to face with You and all Your glory. Help us this day to live into the God moments, expecting miracles where they are least expected. May we go about our busy lives always with Your promise of provision in our hearts. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today’s *Sunday Bulletin*.)