

*Lord, make these words Your Word, that our hearts may become Your heart. Amen.*

This month, Christ Church has been playing with a new way to articulate what we’re about, what we’re up to as an outpost of the Jesus Movement, how we go about **carrying** God’s contagious love into the world.

We do this by: **Conducting** God’s power into human life;

**Cultivating** Christ-centered lives; and **Catalyzing** transformation of the world and our communities, one person at a time.

We are called to be catalysts, and catalysts incite transformation.

Jesus likened the realm of God to yeast, which a woman took and mixed into dough.

Yeast is a granular, inert substance which does nothing until it is catalyzed by water and a sweetening agent... there’s a whole sermon there.

Once you add water and sugar or honey, though, that yeast comes to life!

You can see it bubbling and roiling the liquid – there is disruption.

Dough is an inert substance, until it’s catalyzed by the yeast. You bake a lump of dough that has not risen, and it would be virtually impenetrable, of no use.

But once it is catalyzed by yeast, all kinds of life comes into that dough;

air pockets cause texture and grain, and it becomes twice the size it was before.

There’s a sermon there about things that seem small being powerful...

Yet even risen dough is inert until catalyzed by heat. Add heat,

and wet dough is transformed into delicious, hearty, nourishing bread.

At every stage of making bread there is catalysis – which I just learned is a word.

And for us here, there is a further transformation – for at this table,

ordinary bread becomes the body of Christ, by which our spirits are fed.

This bread is an inert substance sitting on the altar, until we invite the Holy Spirit to catalyze it – then it takes on life, a life beyond our lives,

a life that replenishes, refreshes, renews, redeems, restores us.

Jesus is still in the business of being a catalyst for transformation, and so are we.

Catalysts disrupt the status quo – and Jesus was a catalyst extraordinaire.

He didn’t just heal people; he created a community through whom many were healed. He didn’t just forgive; he formed people able to forgive others.

He met a guy named Zacchaeus, who he was very corrupt and greedy.

When he encountered Jesus' accepting love, he gave up his way of life, gave away half of his assets, and offered to make restitution to anyone he had cheated. He was transformed, and became a catalyst for transformation.

Jesus moved through the lives of people he met, disrupting the old patterns of this world – judgmental religious systems, corrupt political systems, inequitable economic systems, unjust legal systems, prejudiced social systems. He met disease with healing, sin with forgiveness, damaged hearts with love. And each person he healed or forgave became a catalyst for transformation. As we are transformed, we become catalysts for transformation.

Where are you feeling called to catalyze some transformation? In a person? In a family or organization? Workplace? Where are you already a catalyst?

A great example of a catalyst is St. Andrew, patron saint of Scotland, whose feast day we mark today. Andrew is known chiefly as St. Peter's brother. But without Andrew, we might not have a Christian movement, or a church. Andrew was a spiritual seeker, a disciple of John the Baptist. One day, he heard John refer to Jesus as the Messiah, the Holy One, Andrew went to investigate. Jesus saw him following and said, "Come and see." Andrew spent the day with him and knew he was the real deal. He immediately went and found his brother and said, "We have found the Messiah, the savior we've been waiting for!" He brought Peter to Jesus, and Peter became the leader of the Jesus' followers. Jesus taught them to conduct God's power into human life, which we see in the story we heard earlier about them healing the lame man. They saw this guy begging every day, and have no money to give him – but one day Peter thinks, Wait, we have something he needs! We have the name of Jesus. That gives us all the power we need. In the name of Jesus, stand and walk." Not only was that man transformed – the whole community who saw it and was amazed was transformed. *"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus."* Those people became agents of transformation themselves, after they saw that. And Peter became a leader in the Jesus movement we call the Church. Saint Andrew was the catalyst who made all that happen. He is why we're here.

I talked about how this bread becomes transformed through the catalyst of the Holy Spirit. That's not the only transformation that happens around this table.

That same Holy Spirit acts as a catalyst upon us – taking the inert raw material we are – broken, gifted, sinful, compassionate, the whole beautiful mess – and making saints of us.

We were made saints at our baptism, and that status is renewed in us at this table.

So this morning, whether or not go to church, whether or not you buy this crazy story – if you stand in need of transformation, come to this table, present yourself as you are. God is delighted with who you are.

And be willing to be transformed into something new and precious.

That is what we are: the transformed through whom God can work transformation, who become catalysts for transforming the world. Amen.

*Song – [More Love, More Power](#)*

**Luke 13:20-21**

And again Jesus said, ‘To what should I compare the kingdom of God? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.’

**Acts 3:1-10, 4:8-13**

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o’clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, ‘Look at us.’ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, ‘I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.’ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.” ‘There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.