

"What Makes Your Mouth Water?"  
June 25, 2017

Genesis 1:29; Deuteronomy 12:7; 14:22-29; Joel 23-29  
Hayward United Methodist  
Pastor Cathy Hamblin

Call to Worship

Isaiah 55:2; Luke 15:23; Psalm 34:8

Why spend money for what isn't food, and your earnings for what doesn't satisfy?

**Listen carefully to me and eat what is good; enjoy the richest of feasts.**

Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting.

**Taste and see how good the LORD is! The one who takes refuge in him is truly happy!**

Prayer of Invocation

**The mystery of your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell; whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell. You satisfy the hungry heart with gifts of finest wheat. Come, give to us, O Saving Lord, the bread of life to eat. Amen.**

The Word

Genesis 1:29; Deuteronomy 12:7; 14:22-29; Joel 23-29

Then God said, "I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds and all the trees whose fruit produces its seeds within it. These will be your food.

**You will have a feast there, each of you and your families, in the LORD your God's presence, and you will celebrate all you have done because the LORD your God has blessed you.**

You must reserve a tenth part of whatever your fields produce each year.

**Eat the tenth part of your grain, wine, oil, oldest offspring of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God in the location he selects for his name to reside.**

Then you should feast there and celebrate in the presence of the LORD your God, along with your entire household.

**Only make sure not to neglect the Levites who are living in your cities because they don't have a designated inheritance like you do.**

Every third year you must bring the tenth part of your produce from that year and leave it at your city gates.

**Then the Levites, who have no designated inheritance like you do, along with the immigrants, orphans, and widows who live in your cities, will come and feast until they are full. Do this so that the LORD your God might bless you in everything you do.**

Children of Zion, rejoice and be glad in the LORD your God, because he will give you the early rain as a sign of righteousness; he will pour down abundant rain for you, the early and the late rain, as before.

**The threshing floors will be full of grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and fresh oil.**

You will eat abundantly and be satisfied, **and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has done wonders for you;**

Living the Word

Begin at the beginning: What makes your mouth water? I mean literally! Science tells us: Mouths water for a variety of reasons. Desirable food makes one's mouth water in anticipation of general digestion. Saliva serves a number of purposes in lubricating, tasting, and digesting food, and the visual cue of seeing something is sufficient to cause the body to react and produce saliva ahead of the need.

Thank you, God, for Salivary Glands! We could end the sermon there, but I hope you came for more than that...Did you know that there are more than one or two locations of salivary glands? There are some just in front of your ears going down behind the jaw – those are the sour glands- who has experienced the jarring effect of those? There are more inside the jaw forward from the first and some under your tongue.

For those who want a better way to locate them there are pictures on google images or I have brought some sweet/sour sweet tarts and sour jaw head candy for your pleasure after worship. How many of you just shuddered? and how many of you felt your mouth watering just thinking about it? If you are brave enough to experience it in front of your church family, you are welcome to take some home... Along with sour war head candy, and even more mouth watering are the root beer floats planned for this morning's fellowship time.

Isn't it amazing what God has created our bodies to do? Now I will share with you all of the responses that I received in the last few weeks, when I asked "What makes your mouth water?" I have divided them up into categories, which you may or may not agree with, even so, I wanted us to ponder how we experience these responses. I titled this the top six ways we experience mouth-watering...

Lastly to give you time to swallow if these things really get your juices going – between each category we will take to pray. A simple prayer – I will say: "Thank you, Creator God", and you can respond with "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer." Are you ready?

Number 6 of the top six: Mouth-watering through experience: 'hot chili on a cold day,' or 'A dental hygienist cleaning my teeth.' I have labeled these under experience, because we all have differing experiences and these have never been my experience of mouth-watering. Even so, we are not here to judge others! "Thank you, Creator God" "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Number 5: Mouth-watering through Hearing: 'A crisp apple as it is cut,' 'a sizzling steak' 'the bell on the ice cream truck' "Thank you, Creator God" "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Number 4: Mouth-watering through Taste: 'Strawberries, strawberry rhubarb pie, raspberries' How many have gone berry picking and eaten almost as many as you took home? 'Carmel M&Ms' Did you get any of these before they sold out? 'creamed green beans' (these are my responses). For some of you I know it is Dark Chocolate. Of course milk chocolate is on this list, but it can fit anywhere..."Thank you, Creator God" "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Number 3: Mouth-watering through What we See: 'Bakers Squares Carmel Pecan Silk Supreme Pie' 3-waiting for the bowl of mashed potatoes on the table to be passed 3-Joyce's Baked Goods "Thank you, Creator God" "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Number 2: Mouth-watering through Smell: 'taking fresh bread out of the oven' 'Bacon cooking' 'Meat cooking on the grill' 'Pot roast cooking in the electric fry pan' or 'the smell of a pot roast cooking as it reminds me of coming home from church in my entire childhood! Hmmm' "Thank you, Creator God" "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Childhood mouthwatering starts to move us into the Number 1: Mouth-watering through our Memories: We all have differing memories and everything mentioned is a memory of our favorites. When I was a teenager I loved to read poetry. I found a poem with such a long title that it intrigued me, and it has become a poem that I continue to go back to because of the mouth watering tale that it tells. See if it does the same for you.

### **Reflections on a Gift of Watermelon Pickle Received from a Friend Called Felicity by John Tobias**

*During that summer  
When unicorns were still possible;  
When the purpose of knees  
Was to be skinned;  
While straddling thick branches  
Far above and away  
From the softening effects  
Of civilization;*

*During that summer--  
Which may never have been at all;  
But which has become more real  
Than the one that was--  
Watermelons ruled.  
  
Thick pink imperial slices  
Melting frigidly on sun-parched tongues*

*Dribbling from chins;  
Leaving the best part,  
The black bullet seeds,  
To be spit out in rapid fire  
Against the wall  
Against the wind  
Against each other;*

*And when the ammunition was spent,  
There was always another bite:  
It was a summer of limitless bites,  
Of hungers quickly felt  
And quickly forgotten  
With the next careless gorging.*

*The bites are fewer now.  
Each one is savored lingeringly,  
Swallowed reluctantly.*

*But in a jar put up by Felicity,  
The summer which maybe never was  
Has been captured and preserved.  
And when we unscrew the lid  
And slice off a piece  
And let it linger on our tongue:  
Unicorns become possible again.*

In my mind the number one way to experience what makes my mouth water, includes poetry, more of which is found in the book of Holy Scriptures:

From the book of Genesis, chapter 27: *"Make me the delicious food that I love and bring it to me so I can eat. Then I can bless you before I die." 'Bring me some game and make me some delicious food so I can eat, and I will bless you in the LORD's presence before I die.' So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made the delicious food that his father loved and the delicious food and the bread she had made she put into her son's hands."*

Psalm 42:1-4 *"Just like a deer that craves streams of water, my whole being craves you, God. My whole being thirsts for God, for the living God. When will I come and see God's face? My tears have been my food both day and night, as people constantly questioned me, "Where's your God now?" But I remember these things as I bare my soul: how I made my way to the mighty one's abode, to God's own house, with joyous shouts and thanksgiving songs—a huge crowd celebrating the festival!"*

Where is your God now? Are you close enough to yearn for God's festival of goodness in your life? As we experience mouth-watering we experience the desire for more of the good stuff we find in life. We thirst for more.

Luke 14:15 *"When one of the dinner guests heard Jesus' remarks, he said to Jesus, "Happy are those who will feast in God's kingdom."*

John 6:33-40 *"Jesus said: The bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said, "Sir, give us this bread all the time!"*

*Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I told you that you have seen me and still don't believe. Everyone whom the Father gives to me will come to me, and I won't send away anyone who comes to me. I have come down from heaven not to do my will, but the will of him who sent me. This is the will of the one who sent me, that I won't lose anything he has given me, but I will raise it up at the last day. This is my Father's will: that all who see the Son and believe in him will have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."* "Thank you, Creator God"

The top category of mouthwatering things, is memory, it is the thoughts that can trigger a physical reaction inside our minds and our mouths. When I prepare to serve you and myself Holy Communion, my mouth waters. It makes me anticipate and yearn to hear the words that this meal is for me and for all who will receive it. It begs me to remember who Jesus was and is for us; when I taste the grape and then the bread, and it is so. "Do this in remembrance of me." "Thank you, Creator God" "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."