Scripture Reading – August 16, 2026 – for Little Current United Church
Matthew 15: 10-20, 21-38 NRSV Ue

15 Things That Defile

10 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: 11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that
defiles." 12 Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took
offense when they heard what you said?" 13 He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father
has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one
blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." 15 But Peter said to him, "Explain this
parable to us." 16 Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not see that
whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? 18 But what
comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19 For out of the heart
come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These
are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

The Canaanite Woman's Faith

21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 Just then a Canaanite
woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of
David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." 23 But he did not answer her at all. And his
disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." 24 He
answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25 But she came and knelt
before him, saying, "Lord, help me." 26 He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and
throw it to the dogs." 27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from
their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for
you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Jesus Cures Many People

29 After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the
mountain, where he sat down. 30 Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the
blind, the maimed, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured
them, 31 so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole,
the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Feeding the Four Thousand

32 Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for the crowd because
they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat, and I do not want to send
them away hungry, for they might faint on the way." 33 The disciples said to him, "Where are we
to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?" 34 Jesus asked them, "How many
loaves have you?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." 35 Then ordering the crowd to sit
down on the ground, 36 he took the seven loaves and the fish, and after giving thanks he broke
them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 37 And all of
them ate and were filled, and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets
full. 38 Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children. 39 After
sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

May God's spirit shape our understanding of these words.

And may they awaken in our hearts

Isaiah 56:1-8
The Covenant Extended to All Who Obey

56 Thus says the LORD:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.
[2] Happy is the mortal who does this,
the one who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it,
and refrains from doing any evil.
[3] Do not let the foreigner joined to the LORD say,
"The LORD will surely separate me from his people,"
and do not let the eunuch say,
"I am just a dry tree."
[4] For thus says the LORD:
To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,
[5] I will give, in my house and within my walls,
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.
[6] And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—
[7] these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
[8] Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.