

SISTERHOOD OF THE PU-PU PLATTER
Communion –Matthew 11: 25-30 –May 1, 2016
The Church of the Covenant

As I am typing my sermon in the surgical waiting room as my Dad is having his gall bladder removed, I can honestly say that “my plate is full today”. Little did I know when I planned this sermon months ago that I would need it as much as anyone else! So this is a sermon for people whose platters are full; full of stress; full of issues; full of complex emotions; full of feeling overwhelmed; full of facing transition or loss or emotional pain. How does a Christian get through such a time? How are we different from the world? How does Jesus help us through such times? I hope this sermon helps as an answer...

There was a Polynesian restaurant up in the North Hills of Pittsburgh on McKnight Road. I don't remember its name, frankly. But I remember what residents call McNightmare Road. Dangerous and crowded; taking your life in your hands just to drive on it. Route 19 from Peters to Washington has become a lot like McNightmare Road. Perhaps we should begin to refer to it as “Route FRIGHT-teen”. You know, where it separates, as the Apostles Creed declares, “the quick from the dead”. But sometimes the road on which we travel in life becomes clogged with too many issues; it becomes overwhelming, like a dangerous road with too much traffic on it. Perhaps you drive that “highway” today?

So there was this Polynesian restaurant on McNightmare Road and dinner would begin with an appetizer referred to as a Pu-Pu platter. There was one large platter on the lower level; there was another platter, slightly smaller, on the next level up, and there was a smaller third level platter. Each level was packed with all manner of food, including pineapple, and those little funky paper umbrellas. This was no mere platter; this was a packed, three-tiered pu-pu platter. In conversations with people over the years I have often spoken with people who have a lot on their plate, a lot on their platter. I will say to them, at some point when they feel overwhelmed by life, that their platter is full. Most people can handle ONE difficult issue in their life or perhaps TWO, but you start to pile on the pu-pu on the pu-pu platter and pretty soon there are THREE or FOUR or FIVE large groupings of hard issues they face in life. We can handle ONE or TWO but THREE or FOUR or FIVE can be stressful, overwhelming, life-altering and spiritually life threatening. And then it is stacked in a double decker pu-pu platter. And then that second tier is filled to overflow. So then a third tier is added and then that third tier of the pu-pu platter is filled with issues to overflow. And then we wonder why we feel overwhelmed. And we wonder why we feel so crummy. And we wonder where God is in the midst of it all. We can become angry and frustrated. It is not our self speaking; it is our pu-pu platter speaking. It can become soul-killing and ruin our relationship with others and with the Lord. Anyone ever have their pu-pu platter that full? And I refer to it as “The Sisterhood” of the Pu-Pu Platter because most of these conversations have been with women over the years. Men, it is not we do not understand fully what it means to have our plate over-full; it is just we are often less willing to admit and articulate that our platters are that full. And once when I was speaking with a woman and praying with her I blurted out this phrase –You are part of a not-very-exclusive club of people overwhelmed with all the issues on their plate. Welcome to the Sisterhood of the Pu-Pu Platter. Welcome to the Brotherhood of the Pu-Pu Platter. Welcome to life. So what do you do when your Pu-Pu Platter is too full? So Christian, what do you do?

I say, you take that Pu-Pu Platter and you place it at the foot of the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. I say, you visualize heaping every issue you face in life and pile it in overwhelming piles on your Pu-Pu Platter. I say, you throw it down at the foot of the cross at Calvary. Dash everything that weighs you down at the foot of Jesus. HE JESUS has born it all, already. He hung on a cross for every issue in your life

weighing HIM down. He took the bullet for us. HE bore our burden. By HIS STRIPES we are healed. HIS strength is greater than ours. HIS shoulders are broad for HE is the SON of Living God. "Cast your cares upon HIM, for HE cares for (You)", is the promise in Jesus Christ today. Cast the weight of your Pu-PU platter on the Lord for HIS love has already born it all. And then visualize it broken and cast down at the foot of the cross. And then do one more thing –do a little Mexican Hat dance on it. Do a Polynesian War dance on it. Do a little victory dance on the broken shards of your Pu-Pu Platter. Rejoice and praise God in advance. Let HIM bear it for you. Let HIM carry your load. Laugh and dance and rejoice as you dance your full plate into the dust in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because the LORD Jesus Christ promises all who follow HIM, this great and mighty promise –

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11: 28-30)

Jesus says, "Take your Pu-Pu Platter and cast it upon ME on the CROSS and you will find REST, not STRESS". *"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* Come to Jesus. Come to this table. Come to HIS cross. Amen and Amen.

*By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, Pennsylvania
IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!*