

Worship at Home Sunday 2nd August 2020

(From Deacon Al Henry)

Let us sit quietly for a moment,
and think about our journey here today,
and how we are feeling now.
Are we ready to give God our full attention
and worship him?
Then let us come together to share in God's love,
to lift our hearts and voices in praise and worship,
to seek God's blessing with a new and deep experience
of God's power and generosity.
Mighty God of miracles, we come before you.
We imagine what it might have been like
being part of a crowd of 5,000.
There may be far fewer of us here today,
but we think about the people in other churches in our town,
village, and country, also worshipping you.
Bound together by your great love,
we gather in spirit to meet with you, Jesus.

HYMN:409 – Let us build a house

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Prayer:

Dear God, you look deep inside us,
seeing not only our outer but our inner needs.
Have compassion on us, we pray.
Feed us today from your holy word,
and we will be filled.
Lord God of compassion and boundless blessings,
we are full of amazement
that you care so greatly for the needs of your people.
We worship and adore you for your generosity,
your love, and your power.

Confession: - In silence we confess our sins

Lord, today, we pray for people who have little or nothing:
for those who feel trapped in their situation,
and can't see the bigger picture,
or even any tiny glimmer of light.
We pray for people who are hungry:
for parents who struggle to feed their children, and themselves.
We thank you for the work of food banks,
and pray that they would have the resources
to continue to meet so many needs.
We pray that you would give us an appreciation of our food:

the work that goes into producing and distributing it.
Teach us not to be wasteful,
but to preserve and pass on the goodness of your earth.

Introduction to the reading: In a dramatically political atmosphere, Jesus organises a meal for a multitude in the wilderness as a sign of compassion, and a lesson to the disciples that they need to look around them, see the need and meet it. In bringing people together, there is the need to share while there is still time.

The Gospel Reading: [Matthew 14: 13-21](#)

Hymn 238 – [Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us](#)

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee,
Yet possessing every blessing
If our God our Father be.

The Message:

In the bible passage of the feeding of the five thousand there is a need – people are ill, people are hungry too, – eating gives us strength. The disciples realised it getting late so they said to Jesus send the people home so that they can have their evening meal.

But what good is it to feed them spiritually when they are physically hungry? We know how it feels to be hungry. There are now two options: send them home hungry or see to their physical need? Jesus says to the disciples put your hands in your pockets and feed them. In life, like the disciples, we may say we don't have much, others nothing, we don't have the resources or money to spare. We may say we don't have the skill to heal the sick, but a glass of water, half a sandwich, a pound, can go a long way.

A little can go a very long way, but in the passage, one person, one insignificant person, a little boy gave what he had, one least important insignificant persons in that community gave what he had, his picnic lunch.

I guess this small boy inspired others through his actions, this action showed the other adults up; in shame they began to take their picnic lunches out one by one.

The disciples did not want to put their hands in their pockets; they wanted to send the people home hungry. Jesus said verse 16 "You give them something to eat" and hesitantly and reluctantly I guess they obeyed Jesus and the miracle happened.

Someone offered all they had – and a miracle took place. "Praise God"

The little we have given to God in Christ can go a long way as in last week's parable. If we all shared our resources, our possessions, our monies, our community and our world would be such a different and better place.

With the little we have, we can give to a food bank, a charity, our church.

Give of our time, our abilities and resources.

The little we have given to God or a good cause, God takes it, blesses it, God multiplies it and in faith all are fed, needs are met and there is left over. Why not start with grace before meals offer it to God to be blessed and give thanks to God for food we receive.

We can do the same with our money, our salary, our allowance, and our pension we receive. Let us remember all that we have belongs to God it is a loan, a trust to us. In this bible passage the small offering of the little boy saved the day. The need was met. Giving the little we have can meet a great need. Amen.

Prayers for Others

Lord, today, we pray for people who have little or nothing:
for those who feel trapped in their situation,
and can't see the bigger picture,
or even any tiny glimmer of light.

We pray for people who are hungry:
for parents who struggle to feed their children, and themselves.
We thank you for the work of food banks,
and pray that they would have the resources to continue to meet so many needs.
We pray that you would give us an appreciation of our food:
the work that goes into producing and distributing it.
Teach us not to be wasteful,
but to preserve and pass on the goodness of your earth. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 465: Guide me O thou great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore;
Feed me now and evermore.

Sending out & Blessing

By the end of the day, the crowds must have been exhausted.
They left with full stomachs and full hearts.
They had met with Jesus.
You have fed us this day, Lord,
Help us to live the lives you call us to.
May we be conscious of your perfect timing in our lives,
as we reach out to the outsiders as well as to our own.
Bless us, Lord. Amen.

The Grace