



Church Alive Worship for Sunday 12th July



Welcome to our Church Alive service. Whilst we are not all together in church, we are together in spirit. We have tried to adapt our normal service from screen to paper and have provided links to music where possible if you would like to sing. *A big thank you to Debbie Thomson for recording the songs for us. These can be found on our YouTube channel with the links under the title – just hover and click on it*

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.

Opening Song: Spirit of God Unseen As The Wind

<https://youtu.be/e8nEUPDd8SI>

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove;
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love!*

1. You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth
through it God's voice is heard.

Chorus

2. Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live His way;
we need Your power, we need Your strength,
following Christ each day.

Chorus

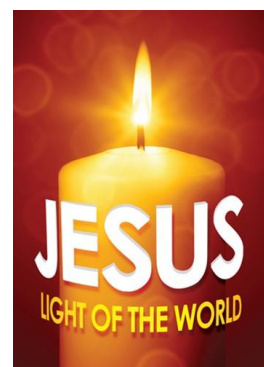


Thanksgiving

What would you like to say thank you to God for today and this week?
Take a moment to say thank you now.

Opening Prayer: *If you are able, and it is safe to do so, light a candle at this point*

Lord, we light this candle, to remind
us that you are the light of the world.
As we gather together in spirit,
make our voices ready to sing your praise;
our hearts open to receive your love
and our minds alive to your Spirit.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



We seek God's healing and forgiveness

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Sometimes, Lord, we don't listen properly to you. We are easily distracted and go our own way, putting ourselves first.

Forgiven by you, I can start anew.

Sometimes, Lord,

We don't trust you to meet our needs and are anything but prepared for our journey with you.

Forgiven by you, I can start anew.

Sometimes, Lord,

We look for our own ways out of a situation, instead of seeking and trusting you.

Forgiven by you, I can start anew.

We hear words assuring us of God's forgiveness

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bible Reading – Matthew 14.13-21, **Jesus Feeds Five Thousand**, Good News Translation (GNT).

¹³ When Jesus heard the news about John, he left there in a boat and went to a lonely place by himself. The people heard about it, and so they left their towns and followed him by land. ¹⁴ Jesus got out of the boat, and when he saw the large crowd, his heart was filled with pity for them, and he healed their sick.

¹⁵ That evening his disciples came to him and said, "It is already very late, and this is a lonely place. Send the people away and let them go to the villages to buy food for themselves."

¹⁶ "They don't have to leave," answered Jesus. "You yourselves give them something to eat!"

¹⁷ "All we have here are five loaves and two fish," they replied.

¹⁸ "Then bring them here to me," Jesus said. ¹⁹ He ordered the people to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks to God. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ Everyone ate and had enough. Then the disciples took up twelve baskets full of what was left over. ²¹ The number of men who ate was about five thousand, not counting the women and children.

Introducing the Theme & Learning Spaces *Not being able to break out into our learning spaces, here are a few thoughts about the theme for today. For young people you can use the Children's and Youth sheets that are being sent out separately.*

Matthew's account of the feeding of 5,000 begins with Jesus withdrawing on the news of John's death. Is he seeking solace in the wilderness, taking stock of his movement now John has gone, or getting out of Herod's way? Whatever the reason, this story has a profoundly political location, beginning with the empire acting against Jesus' movement, and ending with the feeding of an army in the wilderness. In between these brackets we are treated to a story of compassion in action, of the lavish grace of a God who loves and provides for all.

The crowds followed Jesus, and his response was to meet their needs. The disciples – maybe keen to ensure that they could meet Jesus’ need – want to send the crowds away. But Jesus challenges them to meet the crowds’ need for food (v.16). Rightly the disciples object that they have barely enough for their own needs (v.17). So, Jesus feeds the crowds so that the disciples will learn what compassion looks like, just as much as because they all needed an evening meal.

Although the miracle is Jesus’ doing, the disciples are invited to play their part by making the seating arrangements, distributing the food and clearing up afterwards. Amazingly, five loaves and two fish had become a banquet for 5,000 men and unnumbered women and children, with more left over for the disciples than they had started with.

Think about how we are called to play our part in helping Jesus to help others. Do we sometimes think that this is impossible and only a miracle will solve the problem? Or has God given us the gifts to be able to help whatever the odds?

All Age Creative – Meeting a need



First make your paper gift bag (see instructions at the end of service sheet) or find a plain cardboard box.

Now take time to think about those in need in your own community, e.g. homeless, hungry, refugee families. Perhaps you could do something to help them?

Decorate and write and draw encouraging sayings on your paper gift bag or box, e.g. ‘You are cared about. I hope you like these things.’ Now fill your bag/box with things people might need – toiletries, canned food, warm clothes, etc.

Say a prayer that these gifts may be a blessing to others, then donate them to a local homeless shelter/food bank project in your area or keep collecting until a time when it is safe to do so.

Picture Reflection – prepared by Brenda



What do we see in this image that speaks of the Kingdom of God?

This pizza being shared.....reflect on examples of sharing in our lives....

Why is sharing important?

What are the best things about being part of our church community?

The story today is about God’s compassion and the generosity of God’s grace in our lives....spend a few minutes acknowledging God’s grace in your life and expressing your thanks.....

Song: Bind Us Together Lord

<https://youtu.be/k4G0mJuekAM>

*Bind us together Lord,
bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together Lord,
bind us together,
O, bind us together in love*

2: Fit for the glory of God,
purchased by His precious Blood.
Born with the right to be free:
Jesus the victory has won.

Chorus:

1: There is only one God,
there is only one King.
There is only one body,
that is why we sing!

3: We are the family of God,
we are the promise divine,
we are God's chosen desire,
we are the glorious new wine.

Chorus:

Chorus:

O Lord, Hear Our Prayers *Here are a few suggested pics for you to pray about. If you have specific prayers you would like included in future weeks then do send them to Linda and she will add them in*

We pray for...

Our world: Continuing to suffer through the effects of the Coronavirus; particularly those countries where infections are still rising and not under control; where the healthcare systems are under increasing strain...for leadership that expresses compassion and wisdom in their handling of the situation

For an end to systemic racial injustice, for peaceful, safe protests and a more just world to emerge where people have equal opportunities and treatment.

Our communities: For all those living in our parish. For our local businesses that are reopening, to be able to operate safely for both their staff and customers. For those who continue to be fearful of the effects of the relaxation of restrictions. For those who are taking their first cautious steps back into the community. For all who continue to support those who are isolated and alone in our community. For our local police and authorities who continue to operate on the frontline

Our church: For all involved in organising the ways in which we can safely offer worship both within and outside of the church, for the shape that will take and how best they can use their resources so that God can be known in all that they offer. For all the members of our church family who have supported their friends and neighbour. For our PCC as they face difficult decisions about our finances. For generous giving to enable our work to continue and flourish.

For the sick and the dying: for all who are unwell at this time, for those suffering from long-term illness and worried about their treatments, for all who are caring for family at home. For all those for whom this time is affecting their mental health.

For those who have died; may they rest in peace and rise in glory; for the sadness of those who mourn and for those who are unable to attend funerals to say their farewells because of the restrictions in place. For all whose world has changed immeasurably following the death of a loved one.

Thanksgiving: For the gift of faith. For our family and friends and those who will be able to come together for the first time in months. For the beauty of creation that gives us joy and hope that God cares for us all.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

We say the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Song: Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer

https://youtu.be/Zf_aK6lB0Qo

1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim though 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 (*evermore*)
Feed me now and evermore

2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield (*strength and shield*)
Be thou still my strength and shield

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction
land me safe on Canaan's side
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee (*give to thee*)
I will ever give to thee

Sending Out Prayer

**The crowds gathered around you, Lord,
to share with you;
your words and your food.
Help us to go out to share
your words of love
and your bread of life.
Amen.**

The Peace

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen**



Paper Bag Folding illustration:



Photos show process from left to right; top to bottom.

- 1) For the purpose of teaching, a used piece of present paper has been used to show the difference between inner and outer part.
- 2) Fold the upper part, around 1 inch.
- 3) Fold the left side, around 1 to 2 inches.
- 4) Bring the paper from right to left. Glue the side.
- 5) Now, the upper part of the paper bag has been completed.
- 6) Fold up the lower part. The width depends on how big you want it to be.
- 7) Open up the wings just like what shown in Pic. no. 7
- 8) Bring the left wing to the centre.
- 9) Bring the right wing slightly on top of the left.
- 10) Glue the wings together.
- 11) Now, you have one beautiful paper bag to be filled with a present!
- 12) You can make paper bags with recycled magazine papers, newspaper, flyers and pamphlets.

Let us REUSE, REDUCE and RECYCLE!