

worship notes



from the United Reformed Church

Sunday 30th June
Proper 8 | Ordinary 13
The Revd Ruth Whitehead

Call to Worship

God is here
Come and worship
Come and be changed by love

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Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Loving God our creator,
as the Psalmist called out to you in adoration, so do we.
For all the times you have lifted us up:
forming us in our mother's womb,
filling our lives with signs of your love
surrounding us with grace
we sing out in remembrance of your holiness

Loving saviour, Jesus Christ,
for all the times you have lifted us up:
sharing our human nature,
teaching and healing all who came to you
surrounding us with grace
we sing out in remembrance of your holiness

Loving Holy Spirit,
for all the times you have lifted us up:
coming to us as helper and comforter
strengthening all those who need you
surrounding us with grace
we sing out in remembrance of your holiness.

Yet at times we have forgotten your grace and your love,
hear, O Lord, and have mercy on us.
Do not let our fear of failure fill our hearts
but help us to know that you are our helper who can clothe us with joy.

Declaration of Forgiveness

The Holy God comes near to each one of us;
God's grace can turn weeping to dancing as we hear God's words:
'child, your sins are forgiven – be made whole'. Thanks be to God. Amen

Prayer for illumination

Loving God, as we turn to your word
Breathe through these words, speak to us, and touch our lives.
So that may be turned to you and to life. Amen.

All-age Activity

If you have the means of showing a video clip, the "Miracle Maker" version of the Mark reading is wonderful. It is here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_cQCzdhuU
Otherwise, a good reading of the passage (perhaps using different voices to tell the 'Jairus' daughter part of the story and the 'woman with bleeding' part) would work.

You could ask 'wondering' questions to everyone once they have seen it/ listened to it:

- I wonder how Jairus felt when his daughter was ill?
- I wonder what it was like to have to wait for Jesus to get to his house?
- I wonder how the woman with bleeding felt as she got closer to Jesus?
- I wonder how the crowd felt when Jesus called the woman 'daughter'?
- I wonder what it felt like to be healed by Jesus?
- I wonder what Jairus and his family thought when the little girl got up?
- I wonder if there is something we would like to ask Jesus to do for us, today?

Notes on Readings

Psalm 30 is a song of praise which is realistic about the way in which, even for people of faith, there are times when we are unsure about our future. Will God act, will we be rescued? But the Psalmist 'turns the corner' as the psalm goes on, and ends on a note of high praise, with weeping turned to dancing and that wonderful phrase 'weeping may spend the night, but joy come in the morning'. You could invite a congregation to think of the things which leave them sleepless and weeping. These could be written down but then the paper folded up, not shared).. and then everyone could offer them, still unopened into a basket which is then placed upon the communion table – offered up to the God who can change weeping into joy. Or you could find some real-world examples of the power of prayer to change things, but being sensitive to show that sometimes these prayers take a long time, and that at other times God's answer is not the answer we hoped for. God does not provide easy and instant answers to prayer, and we will still weep at times. Yet with the psalmist we proclaim that God hears and answers prayer.

2 Corinthians 8: 7-15 Paul is addressing the Corinthians about a collection for other churches. That might not seem like a relevant issue for us (that's when reading Paul feels a bit like opening other people's mail) – but have you never had a conversation about the size of your church's M&M request? Or whether you can afford to be quite so generous to charity this year? Or maybe money isn't an issue for those to whom you are preaching – then this passage could be about other kinds of efforts that your congregation is struggling to keep up. Paul is encouraging those who can do a good work to get on and do it. That might be the message you want to give, or you might be preaching to a congregation where people are exhausted and need a chance to rest. In either case, the final quotation in this passage is an encouragement “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.” Paul is reminding them of the manna which fed the people of God in the wilderness. It was a gift of grace – they needn't worry about whether they would receive enough from God – everyone received God's gracious gift – and God gifted everyone with enough for their needs. If churches wonder what they have to share with others. Paul points them to the gift of the gospel of grace. Instead of the desperation of scarcity, we can celebrate the abundance of grace.

Mark 5: 21-43 You might like to help people to reflect on the comparisons of the two people healed in this story. A young girl - An old woman The privileged daughter of the head of the synagogue – a woman considered unclean due to her condition Someone whose needs are brought directly to Jesus – someone who comes stealthily etc. Does Mark deliberately tell the two stories together to help us realise that God's healing in Jesus is for everyone? If you are feeling brave, or if you know the congregation to whom you are preaching very well, you might like to explore the way in which Jesus tackles healing of “women's problems” – matters from which many Jewish men would shrink away. Are there conditions of physical or mental health today which feels like they are taboo? Are we helped by seeing that through Jesus, the God who made us come to us to transform and heal us whatever our condition? The way in which the needs of the woman with the haemorrhage interrupt Jesus on his journey to Jairus' daughter might lead you to reflect on the ways in which we as Christians and as churches prioritise the needs we see around us. How do we learn to focus on the people we are with, in the moment, as Jesus manages to do?

Offertory Introduction & Prayer

“The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.” (2 Cor 8:15) Let us bring our gifts – of whatever size, to the God whose grace is boundless and all-sufficient.

God of grace, every gift comes from you.
We offer these as signs of our thanks,
and with them we bring our lives.
Touch and transform all we offer,
that your grace may be shared ever more widely.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The Psalmist tells us: *Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes in the morning* (Ps 130v6)

All-holy God,
we thank you for the joy of your healing presence,
and we pray for those who most need to know your healing this day.

God who hears...**bring healing, bring joy**

We pray for those who weep in frustration,
as our planet continues to be threatened
due to selfish exploitation by the human race.

God who hears...**bring healing, bring joy**

We pray for those who weep in fear,
as warfare ravages lands and homes,
and peace seems impossible.

God who hears...**bring healing, bring joy**

We pray for those who weep in pain,
as they wait for treatment, or hope for a breakthrough.

God who hears...**bring healing, bring joy**

We pray for those who weep in anger, as they fail to find meaningful work or as
relationships break down.

God who hears...**bring healing, bring joy**

We pray for those who weep in despair,
as they feel that no-one listens and no-one cares.

God who hears...**bring healing, bring joy**

Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes in the morning
We pray for those who bring healing, joy and hope to others.
Help us to find ways to serve the needs around us,
And bring us, at the last, to the eternal morning of your joy with all your saints in
heaven, through our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessing

May God the Father lead you to where you need to be.
May the Spirit open eyes to those you need to see.
May Jesus Christ give you power to change and heal and bless.
May all know your active faith,
as deeds and words confess that God is love,
and sends us out to share with others all about. Amen.

Hymn Suggestions				
	RS	CH4	StF	MP
Our hunger cries from plenty, Lord	341			
God of grace and God of glory	344		682	192
Hark my soul it is the Lord	348		426	209
Open your eyes see the glory of the King		791		547
My God I love thee	357			
Lord, speak to me, that I may speak	613	542		444
My life flows on in endless song		565		1210
Lord I pray, if today		541		
Lord you have come to the seashore		532	558	
Jesus Christ our living Lord		524		
Over my head (there must be a God)		575		
Jesus puts this song into our hearts		692		375

RS – Rejoice & Sing | CH4 – Church Hymnary 4 | StF – Singing the Faith | MP – Mission Praise