

**Sheffield United Reformed Churches**  
**Team Ministry worship for individuals or families**  
**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 10:30 am.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

***Call to worship (from Psalm 100)***

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is God who made us, and we are God's people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. So come let us worship.....

***Hymn***

Thou whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard and took their flight,  
hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day sheds not its glorious ray  
Let There Be Light!

Saviour who came to bring on thy redeeming wing healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind, now to all humankind  
Let There Be Light!

Spirit of truth and love, lifegiving, holy Dove, speed forth thy flight;  
move o'er the waters' face, bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place  
Let There Be Light!

Blessed and holy Three, glorious Trinity, Wisdom, Love, Might,  
boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride, through the world, far and wide,  
Let There Be Light!

***Prayers of Approach, Confession and Thanksgiving***

We come before you, gracious God, just as we are. We come with our weaknesses and our vulnerabilities. We come with our fears and apprehensions. We come with faith and doubt. We come to offer and receive. We come to you, the king of love – and we praise you that the message of love is shown in all creation, in the life of Jesus and in the coming of the Holy Spirit.

We are sorry that when we get up each morning in lockdown, each day looks the same, nothing much happens and we complain that there is very little we can do. Forgive us for not being aware how your love meets us each new day and how your Spirit waits to fill us anew. Thank you loving God for your forgiveness and help us to forgive each other, in the name of your Son, and in the power of your Spirit. Amen

*Now, wherever we are, let us say the **Lord's Prayer**...*



**Readings**

**Psalm 100** - come before God with joy!

**Matthew 9:35-10:8**

Jesus sends His followers out...

**Romans 5:1-8.**

Growing in character through the grace of Christ who died for us...

## **Reflection**

Every one of us will be able to think of people who have been our role-models over the years. In living out our own lives, consciously or subconsciously, we will have tried to *be like* them. In living out our Christian lives, equally there will be those who have played a part in shaping our own discipleship of Jesus. Let us thank God for them!

But what of God? Can God be our role-model? Think if you will of examples from the bible when we hear something like: Because God is x, so you are, or should also be, x  
Here are some examples:

From Luke's Gospel: Be merciful as your father in heaven is merciful

From John's Gospel: I pray that you may be one, as I and my father are one.

Also from John's Gospel: Love one another as I have loved you.

From The Lord's Prayer: Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

I think the last phrase of our reading from Matthew's Gospel is hinting at something very similar: 'You have received without cost; give without charge.'

Which I think could be re-written as: 'Because God has given... so you must give...'

I deliberately leave a ... blank – which I think we can fill in. God gives of God's self.

'Because God has given *of God's self*, so you must give *of yourself*'

More than that, God gives of himself in Jesus, wholly, unconditionally and graciously.

'Because God has given *of God's self in Jesus Christ*,

so you must give *of yourself in his name*'.

That we can make the link between what God is like and what we are like is itself saying something about God. And that 'something' has everything to do with the fact that God is in relationship with God's creation, and therefore with us. All the things of which we can say 'Because God is, so we should be' – merciful, forgiving, loving, *giving* – are all to do with a God who *is* relationship.

So when we say, 'Because God is..., so we should be...', we are pointing in two directions. On the one hand, every good sermon should be pointing to the question – so what should I do or be? On the other hand, there is a question that is just as important: but first, what is God like – and what is God's relationship with us like?

So from Matthew's Gospel we are told: 'You have received without cost; give without charge'.

What does it mean to give without charge? That needs a huge amount of unpacking! Surely it will be different for each one of us in our own individual story of discipleship. But perhaps our recent experiences can give us more than a hint.

If we are honest, has lockdown prompted a thought process in us two voices:

'as long as I'm OK.' and 'What will keep me safe?'

And *at the same time*

'but what about those who are struggling and suffering?'

'How do these days challenge me to play my part?'

To the extent that we let the second voice be the louder voice, we are learning what it means to give without charge. And therefore, Matthew reminds us, we are reflecting the life of God.

'You have received without cost; give without charge.'

**Communion (let us say...)**

Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us  
Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us  
Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us  
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here

**Prayer (based on Romans 5, 6-8)**

In a week in which we contemplate what the untimely death of a single man might mean and what good, if any might come from it, we turn and bow our knee to You, Lord Christ. We thank you that, in the sovereign purposes of God, Your death had a "right time". That while we were powerless to change ourselves or to make change happen in others or in the world around us, you surrendered yourself to the will and manipulation of sinful men. You laid down your life for those who had no merit. You did not wait for us to progress to the point that we deserved mercy but you demonstrated your great love for a broken world in that while we still continued to break your commands, you died for us. We thank you.

Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here  
Know his grace, find his peace, Feast on Jesus here

**Eat some bread with thanks - Drink from a cup in hope**

In this bread there is healing - In this cup there's life forever  
We'll proclaim, till he comes: Jesus crucified!

**Prayer after Communion (based on Matthew 9:35-10:8)**

As God is loving so we go to love  
As God speaks, so we proclaim peace  
As God shows compassion, so we go to serve  
As God has healed so we go to heal  
As God sows generously, so we reap the world's Harvest  
As God calls so we are sent into his harvest field  
As God gives freely, so we go to give our all

**Prayers of Intercession**

Friends in Christ, God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. Loving our neighbours as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions on behalf of the church and the world.

Redeeming, sustainer, be with your people and pour out your strength and courage upon us, that we may make you welcome not only in our concern for others, but by serving them generously and faithfully in your name.

*Add your own concerns and responses where the blanks are...*

We pray for the world ...	and we remember....	And you call us to...
We pray for the church .....	and we remember.....	And you call us to...
We pray for those we know...	and we remember...	And you call us to...

Father, help us to remain with you, where ever we may go, and in whatever situation we find ourselves, may we bear good fruit, doing justice in all our ways for your name sake we pray. Amen

### ***Hymn***

Come down, O love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace, till it becomes the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

### ***Blessing***

Be imitators of God:

Proclaim the Kingdom  
Heal the sick  
Set people free from evil

And may the God who speaks  
And the Son who heals  
And the Holy Spirit who brings liberty

Bring blessing to others and to ourselves, as we imitate Him