



## Service for personal use – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Call to Worship. “The Lord is my shepherd, therefore I shall not want, he makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me to still waters, he restores my soul” Psalm 23.

Hymn. “How great thou art” 82 StF, 506 MP.

Opening Prayer.

O God, our loving Heavenly Father, we want to acknowledge again that You are the great God of wonders, yet only a prayer away. We want to thank You for the many presents of Your promises and the keys to open them. Make us ready to do great things in Christ’s strength and for Your Kingdom. Bless us as we continue in our Christian journey through Life, as we emphasize the spiritual side life We come to You accepting that there are sometimes things in our lives which are wrong, so if that is the case, please forgive and renew us. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

Responsive Reading 832 StF.

Hymn “Break thou the bread of life” StF 153, 64 MP, 467 H&P.

Bible Readings

2 Samuel 18 vs 5 – 9, 15, 31 – 33. David’s son Absalom is killed in battle and David grieves for him greatly.

Ephesians 4 vs 25 – 5 vs 2. Paul encourages the Christians to continue be spiritual people, emphasising the positive and getting rid of the negative.

John 6 vs 35, 41 – 51. Jesus states the great promise in verse 35, “I am the bread of life, he that comes to me will never hunger and he that believes in me shall never thirst” In John’s Gospel, he carefully selects the miracles of Christ to show his teaching. So the changing of water into wine, it shows the importance of faith, with the phrase, “his disciples believed in him” John 2 verse 11. In chapter 9 we have the healing of the person who was born blind, Jesus heals him to show that he is the “Light of the world” John 8 verse 12. In chapter 11, we have the raising of Lazarus from the dead, this is to give us teaching on the

resurrection, which is highlighted in John 11 verse 25, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live". So in chapter 6 we have the feeding of the 5000 to illustrate that "Jesus is the bread of life".

Jesus said "I am the bread of life", what did Jesus mean by this phrase, let us look at this; bread sustains life, bread is the staff of life, bread is that without which life cannot go on, so bread is essential to life. But what is life, clearly this is moving above and beyond merely physical things towards spiritual things. What is this new spiritual meaning of life?, the answer is, "life is a new relationship with God in Christ". This life is based on the principles of trust, love, intimacy and when necessary obedience.

So, Christ is our spiritual food, we see a similar idea in Psalm 23, where it says, "He leads me to green pastures" and again when Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread, he said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word which proceeds from the mouth of the Lord", the words and promises of our Lord are food for our souls. This is why the Apostle Paul writes in Romans 10 and verse 17, "Faith comes from hearing the word of God".

Jesus says, "He who comes to me will never hunger and he who believes in me shall never thirst", so we need to be willing to come and to believe. In Matthew 5 verse 6, Jesus says, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteous for they shall be filled". Please note, our Lord is not saying we have to be righteous, ( although that is desirable) but to desire these things. There is something lovely here, God doesn't assess us only our achievements, but on our dreams. In the Old Testament, King David feels he is a failure because he did not build the Temple, but God said, "because you had a desire to build it, it was as good as doing it in practice".

The positive wonder of this statement of Jesus, is that of never being hungry nor thirsty, in other words we are spiritually satisfied. This invitation is universal, whoever comes to Christ shall be nourished, fulfilled and accepted. The human heart finds what it was searching for and life ceases to be mere existence and becomes an experience of forgiveness, reconciliation, love and peace. Amen.

Hymn "As your family Lord, see us here" 571 StF, 595 H&P.

Prayers of intercession.

Living God, we trust You to answer our prayers, according to Your will and the richness of Your love for in Christ.

We pray for those who struggle with their faith, through self doubt, difficult circumstances and being led astray by others. – please pray for those you know.

We pray for people who feel they are in the dark, locked into a situation, where they can find no answer. We ask that they might come to understand that You are the key to everything they need. – please pray for those you know.

We pray for ourselves when we are in difficult situations, times when we try to unlock doors that are not ours to open, when we don't focus on Your Kingdom, when we don't share our story. Please give us a fresh vision of Your wonder and Your will.

We pray these our prayers in Christ's most worthy name. Amen.

We say the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn, "Guide me O Thou great Jehovah". 465 StF, 201 MP, 437 H&P.

We say the "Grace". Amen.