

## Welcome

Hello once more this 2nd of August in the year of our Lord 2020. Where has this year gone? Ok it's a rhetorical question.

Well wherever you are again let me welcome you to this wee recording of worship for Kirkgate Parish Church and for all those who tune in from near and far, we hope you are blessed and encouraged by this audio service.

Some ask why I don't go on camera and put it all up on youtube or Facebook. Well there are several reasons, but my main one is this. Listening to me in this way offers no distractions. Just me a voice in your ear. I leave the imaginings of the mind to you.

It reminds me of being a laddie when we didn't have a telly in the house. The radio was the Saturday night listening.

Anyway the other thing to mention is that this evening Stuart has Kirkgate by Request playing again so tune into that if you want uplifted with good hymns, organ music and greeting from friends in the congregation and beyond all stitched pleasantly together by Stuart for your delight. Remember if your request wasn't able to fit in in this month it might very well be used next time.

So to our worship for today. We are looking at the feeding of the 5000 and reflecting on how Jesus can take the little things in life, the ordinary things and make them great - make us great in our purposes for God.

So let us begin with a call to worship and it comes from Philipians 2 verses 9-11 taken from the The Passion Translation.:

**9** Because of that obedience, God exalted him and multiplied his greatness! He has now been given the greatest of all names!

**10** The authority of the name of Jesus causes every knee to bow in reverence! Everything and everyone will one day submit to this name—in the heavenly realm, in the earthly realm, and in the demonic realm. **11** And every tongue will proclaim in every language: “Jesus Christ is Lord Yahweh,” bringing glory and honor to God, his Father!

Shall we join together with the recording and sing along to

**CH4 124 Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of Creation.**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,  
The King of creation ;  
praise God, my soul, for in him  
are your health and salvation ;  
come all who hear,  
into his presence draw near,  
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who in all things  
is wondrously reigning, shields you from harm  
and is gently yet firmly sustaining.  
Have you not seen  
how your heart's wishes have been  
granted by God's wise ordaining ?

Praise to the Lord, who with blessing  
and power will defend you ;  
surely his goodness and mercy  
shall daily attend you ;  
ponder anew what the Almighty can do :  
God will for ever befriend you.

Praise to the Lord !  
O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath,  
come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen sound from God's people again :  
gladly for ever adore him.

Shall we join our hearts and minds in prayer come let us pray together.

Loving Lord God who provides for all our needs and then some. Whose grace is sufficient for us in times of trouble and times of plenty. Father in Heaven we praise You for the wonderful plan of Salvation brought to humanity by Your Son Jesus who came to show us the way of sacrificial love and the victory for all those who believe on Him, the Lamb of God.

Lord God we come asking forgiveness once more not just for what we have done to grieve You and for what we have not done to honour You. When we fail to act in love and compassion for those we love and for those around us in need. Help us to have a generous spirit Lord. to be cheerful givers and to look out for those who have less than ourselves and who need encouragement, affection and sustenance in body and spirit. Help us to be Holy this week Father, for we seldom think of ourselves as Holy, but let us see ourselves reflected in Christ that we might truly have strength and courage in all we do in Your glorious Kingdom.

And so Lord God hear us now as we say together the Lord's Prayer and open up for us a renewed understanding of its meaning as we say together.

Our Father

Who art in Heaven

Hallowed be thy name

Thy Kingdom come

Thy will be done on earth

as it is in Heaven

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts

as we forgive our debtors

and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

for Thine is the Kingdom the power and the glory

Forever

Amen

Amen

Our Scripture Reading today is taken from Matthew's Gospel chapter 14 verses 13-21 The feeding of the 5000. (GNT)

Let us hear the word of God.

(Also see - Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15)

### **Jesus Feeds Five Thousand**

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.

Let us sing along once more to

#### **CH4 694 Brother Sister let me serve you**

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

My Reflection today is entitled - [Learning Multiplication with Jesus.](#)

The feeding of the 5000 is one of the most popular stories of the New Testament. It is different than the later story of Jesus performing a similar miracle, later, when He fed the 4000 in a similar fashion with bread and fish. See Matthew 15.

At face value it is a miracle of miracles as Jesus and the disciples feed these men their wives and children with the 5 small loaves of bread and the two small fish. Multiplied to feed over 10000 people, perhaps. But what was the back story here? Why did so many people gather to be near Jesus and why did Jesus remain when He really was going off to a quiet place?

Those who came were in need of healing, and perhaps someone to guide and lead them. Roman taxes gathered by the Jewish authorities on their behalf were crippling. Many lost their subsistence farms, many took out loans to keep them at extortionate interest.

They had just heard that John the Baptist had been murdered by Herod Antipas and that Jesus was nearby.

When you have heard bad news of a relation dying, or a friend it is a shock to the system. When a loved one is taken it leaves a void in the heart. Jesus learns of John the Baptist's murder at the hands of Herod Antipas and now He must continue the mission to the world on His own. He would take himself off to a quiet place to pray as was His custom.

He must go and grieve for His cousin but He must also go and pray and commune with the Father in Heaven. However, the crowds gather. 5000 men with their wives and children, maybe some were followers of John, maybe many of them came for Jesus to be their leader and rise up against the Romans and the complicit Jewish Authorities?

Jesus was all too aware of this, but for now He takes compassion, or pity, on them and He works tirelessly all day with his disciples healing all kinds of ailments. Near evening the disciples want to call a halt and have the people

go into the surrounding villages and towns to get supper. So there is no reason to believe that they were all necessarily poverty stricken, just leaderless.

But Jesus simply tells the disciples - "you yourselves give them something to eat". verse 16.

Jesus extends the invitation to His disciples to get involved and now he would show them the miraculous providence of God.

Apart from the face value story here there is much symbolism at work. God providing mana and meat in the desert for the Israelites under the leadership of Moses. Here, in Jesus, is one greater than Moses. Feeding the people and providing living water for their soul. Offering salvation to all who repent and believe on Him the 'Son of God'. The disciples are having a sharp learning curve now and this section of Matthew, at least, reinforces this fact that here is the Son of God. Here is God incarnate. They would witness Jesus walking on water soon after. This can only be God incarnate, Yahweh himself.

There are overtones of breaking the bread at communion later as Jesus looked to Heaven and broke the bread as He did in the upper room on the night He was betrayed by Judas and before the crucifixion. Offering the bread with thanksgiving to receive God's blessing. Feeding the stomachs and the soul of the people. Birthing the institution of the Holy Sacrament, the Eucharist. 'This do in remembrance of me'. Eating and drinking of the Saviour who nourishes us Spiritually and satisfies our physical needs.

So the light grows dim and Jesus takes 5 small rolls and two fish brought by a boy probably for himself and the father or relation's lunch. Jesus commands all to sit down on the grass.

**Psalm 23 He makes me down to lie in pastures green he leadeth me, the quiet waters by.**

All hills and slopes near the Sea of Galilee look on to that beautiful sight especially at sunset. What peace the people must have found.

The disciples moans of the scarcity of food they have for the people are silenced when Jesus begins to divide portions of the fish and bread and we read of the most amazing miraculous multiplication for all. Every man woman and child received supper and there was 12 baskets of left overs, presumably as 12 disciples distributed the food.

For us there is much we can be encouraged by in this act of grace and providence.

You see God can take the the ordinary little things, like these loaves of bread, like two small fish the ordinary lunch of the common people of Galilee and make something special from them. He can multiply them to feed a multitude.

I have heard of similar miraculous things happening through prayer when missionaries feed the poorest people in this world. We don't usually hear much of this, but taken on a personal basis we can bring what we have into the service of God, our possessions, our encouragement, learning and witness that we might deem puny by our standards and see how they can bring relief and joy to many in Jesus hands.

We are called to love God with all our hearts and minds soul and strength and as such we place all before Him even our new found lives in Christ into His care that power and provision will be multiplied within us for the tasks we are to undertake for Christ.

For when we see the needy or need arises like the people before the disciples it is never usually at a good time. Is it?

It is probably when we are rushing to do something else, or trying to have a quiet time, that a crisis arises or we see a need and perhaps we feel totally overwhelmed by that need and we consider ourselves weak and inadequate. Through prayer and belief let us open ourselves to God, then, that we can be strengthened and equipped.

The needy may ask much more than you have to give. Let us pray for God to multiply our resources when it is for a good cause and not selfish gain. When Jesus took the loaves and fish from the boy He only took what he had and Jesus did the rest.

In John's account of the feeding of the 5000 he clarifies that situation thus:

**John 6 verse 8**

8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Jesus will never ask more than we have or can give. What we give out of our wealth however small that is sufficient for Jesus to do great things in the face of need.

Let us also remember the plight of Jesus and His disciples in our passage. Even when Jesus was tired, in need of a rest He still had compassion on the crowds. He stayed to help. It is encouraging for us that when we call on Jesus He is always there, never sleeping, never letting our foot slip as

**Psalm 121 verse 3 (NIV) extols.**

He will not let your foot slip—

he who watches over you will not slumber;

Jesus invites us to play in His field. To take part and watch and pray and follow how he provides not just spiritual needs but physical and emotional needs as well.

Jesus gave thanks for the meal. We say grace before our meals something like “For what we are about to receive we give thanks to God”, or remember the ditty we said in the 60s at school. ‘God, give us food and make us good for Jesus sake Amen’ and then there was a mad rush to the hatch to get in the queue. Ah the joys of the school meals!

But the point here is that we should be thankful for everything even when we have got plenty. There is always something to be thankful for.

When we give a little away the blessings that return are multiplied for Jesus takes ordinary things and makes great things from them.

## **Psalm 23**

**5**

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

God not only provides, He can provide abundantly beyond anything we can ever imagine....

## **Ephesians 3:20**

To him who by means of his power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of:

Watch God at work next time you offer what little you have into the hands of Jesus. Your time, talents and wealth put to good use in spreading the Good News of the Kingdom. Salvation for all. Even our dreams, our hopes our past pains and rejections. As we offer all to Jesus He will fill us anew for we follow the one who died for us all while we were still selfish, but rose again to show us that there is a blessing in sacrificial giving no matter how great or how small that is. Jesus gave His life for us; what can we bring to Him if not our very lives as well?

Let us remember to place our lives and possessions in the hands of a loving God for in our hands things might seem weak and ordinary, in God’s hands they multiply to greatness and become unique to the eyes and ears of the beholder.

## **2 Corinthians 9:8**

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

**Amen**

**Let us draw near to God once more in our prayer of intercession.**



Loving Lord God help us to place all into Your hands today. Help us to release our very lives and possessions for Your purposes and for Your blessings as we obey Jesus command to go into every corner of our community and spread the Gospel message. Even our two or three words muttered in fear can have lasting and great effects as if shouted from the roof tops. And so Lord God as we continue on in our worship, remind us of just how big a God You are beyond our understanding. Remind us just how intimate a God You are when we fall in need ourselves.

Loving Lord God

We thank You for all the answered prayers and those yet to be answered in Your perfect timing and according to Your will. We bring before You our prayers of intercession this day and remember the world and all its trials. We remember all those caught up in the Corona Virus pandemic and pray that Your healing hand, comfort and peace remains even in the face of death. Be merciful to us Father and spare us from this pandemic and that it will be taken from us.

We think of all those at the mercy of the weather and the climate. For those struggling with drought and famine, flood and fire.

We pray for all caught up in war and violence in countries not too far from us and further afield. Father stay the hand of natural disaster and the hand that slays and bring peace again among the nations and within the nations.

Lord God we pray for our governments across the worlds and here in the United Kingdom. May You guide them to be wise as they continue the easing up of lock down and the provisions they make available for society caught up in lock down and unable to get to work. We pray protection over the workers in the care and emergency professions and also in the shops, hairdressers and all those places where people who never make the headlines serve us in our daily needs. Bless them Lord for their service to us all that goes unnoticed so often.

For our churches Father God we know we are in Your hands and ask that You protect the vulnerable worshippers on our return. Guide our courts of the Church to know how to allow the opening up of our buildings once more with clarity of vision and renewed vigour for the Word. And bless all those who will come to be with brothers and sister in Christ when the time arises.

For ourselves Father hear our prayers for all those we love and know are struggling at this time with health issues, money issues and other ailments, for those who grieve the loss of loved ones and for our own anxieties and worries - Abba Father hear the petitions for ourselves and others in this time of silent and spoken prayers of the hearts.

And so Lord God hear our heart felt prayers through this short time of worship for we bring them as always in the precious name of our Lord Jesus.

Amen

**Our Closing hymn today is**  
**CH4 132 Immortal Invisible God only Wise.**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might ;  
thy justice like mountains, high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains  
of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small ;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all ;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render : O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Thank you once more for joining us today, keep safe and well and visit again  
and remember Kirkgate by Request later this evening and though the coming  
weeks.

**Benediction**

let us hear the words of the blessing

And now let us go with joy and peace in our hearts offering generously of our  
time, talents and possession - all in the service of God and may the blessing  
of the God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be with us and  
remain with us evermore.

Amen