

St Nicholas Church, Sighthill

1 October 2023



You give them something to eat

Call to worship

Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise! Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies come cringing to You. All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to your name (Psalm 66:1-4)

Opening Song: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPMA5I3-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPMA5I3-0Jw&t=12s)

[0Jw&t=12s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPMA5I3-0Jw&t=12s)

Opening Prayer

O Lord our God, how great Thou art! When we look up at the stars on a clear, dark night and see the vastness of space and realise You made and designed all that, we see something of Your greatness and awesome power. When we see the clear blue sky on a summer's day and the bright sunshine showing everything in glorious technicolour and realise You made and designed all of it, we see something of Your greatness and awesome skill in creation. When we see on the television nature programmes highlighting the amazing variety of animals and environments and realise You made and designed all that, we see something of Your greatness and awesome skill in design. And when we remember that You gave Your son, Your nearest and dearest, to die for us on the cross to take away our sin, we see something of Your greatness and awesome love for us.

O Lord our God, how great Thou art, and how we praise You, worship and adore You! We confess: although Your greatness and power and love can be seen all around us, so often we don't see it. So often we tend to see the bad rather than the good, the negatives rather than the positives, the problems rather than the way forward, the things that pull us down rather than what lifts us up.

We can let our troubles, fears and doubts take over and stop looking to You, floundering in the dark rather than walking in the light, and being led and guided by You. So often we can let life get on top of us instead of sharing it all with You, looking to You to lead us through it.

Sorry, Lord, Forgive us. Work in us by Your Holy Spirit. Speak to us through Your word. Open our hearts and minds to You, to who You are and to how great You are, and to what You can do when we love You, trust You and follow You. Meet with us now and

help us to know You with us to know the difference that You make in our lives, and to worship You and learn from You. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

Bible Reading: Mark 6:30-44

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages[a]: Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?" "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish." Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Brief Reflection: 'You give them something to eat'.

"Give them some to eat" is the theme for our reflection. To eat means "to put food into the mouth, chew and swallow it. It is natural to eat when you are hungry and this is why Jesus told



his disciples to give the people food to eat after listening to Jesus teach for a while. Jesus very clearly tells us in the Gospel to have concern for our fellow men. He gives us an example. He sees a vast crowd and he pities them, "for they were like sheep without a shepherd" (Mark 6:34). He taught them them at great length, so long that the Apostles got worried that they might have to feed them. They came to Jesus and suggested He stop preaching so that the people could either get home or into some village to get something to eat.

Jesus simply said, "You give them something to eat" (Mark 6:37). He is saying to them that they should not shy away from responsibility to the poor, the needy. The disciples evidently did not want to get involved. They were afraid what might cost them.

Are we afraid to get involved? Do we shy away from responsibility to our sisters and brothers in need? We live in a society that is very independent, especially in big cities; every one for himself. Do not get involved. It might get you into trouble. It might cost you some money, and you need all you have to keep up your affluent living.

Jesus says if we want to be His disciples, His followers, we've got to get involved, we've got to be willing to sacrifice for our sisters and brothers, to deny self so as to be able to help them. He makes it quite clear that it is the best way to live, the happiest way. Why? Just look at the reward! What a joy it must have been to be a part of that exciting incident, feeding the five thousand with just five loaves of bread and two fish. And to end up with more than at the start.

Getting involved will make our Christian lives a joy. We will be a part of God's exciting work in the world. And without a doubt we will end with more than we began with, more joy, more meaning, more of God's blessings both spiritual and temporal.

<https://christianpilgrim.wordpress.com/2014/01/07/you-give-them-something-to-eat-mark-634-44/>

Offering, song and Prayer for offerings Bringing in the sheaves

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6y766K_3xg&t=21s

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession

Our gracious God and loving heavenly Father, we thank You that we matter to You and that everyone matters to You so much that You even gave Your son, to become one of us and die for us. You raised Him back to life to sit at Your right hand, crowned with glory and honour,

so that all who trust themselves to Jesus, can end up sharing in His glory in heaven for ever as Your family. We thank You that in Jesus, we see how much we matter to You.

When we think of these things, what can we do but be amazed? And gladly give You these offerings of ourselves, our time, treasures and talents, asking that

You use them to help others know how much they matter to You.

Loving Father, we ask that You guide our feet that we may walk in the footsteps of Your son Jesus. We ask that You guide and counsel those going through hard times and struggling to find solutions. Send them a Comforter. Soften the 'hardening hearts' of those in difficult relationships. Help them to make the decisions that are right for them. Where people are suffering injustice, we cry out for wrongs to be righted and for there to be justice.

Bless all children and those who care for them. For those suffering abuse – a place of safety that they may know love. For children in warzones – peace. For those suffering hunger – food from Your great world's bounty. As we begin the harvest season, we pray that You would open people's eyes and hearts to see that people matter, no matter how poor or needy they are, help us to treat them with dignity and respect, valuing and appreciating them, and playing our part to help people in need and to build a fair and just society. All this we ask in the name of Your Son Jesus, who died for us that we may be forgiven our sins, Amen

Closing Hymn:

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3h1GUkpkP2A>

1. Love divine all loves excelling
Joy of heaven to earth come down
Fix in us your humble dwelling
All your faithful mercies crown
Jesus you are all compassion
Pure unbounded love impart
Visit us with your salvation
Enter every trembling heart
2. Come Almighty to deliver
Let us all your grace receive
Suddenly return and never
Never more your temples leave
We would always give you blessing
Serve you as your hosts above
Pray and praise you without ceasing
Glory in your perfect love
3. Finish then your new creation
Pure and spotless let us be
Let us see your great salvation
Perfect in eternity
Changed from glory into glory
Till in heaven we take our place
There to sing salvation's story
Lost in wonder love and praise

CCLI Song # 1038991, Charles Wesley | Word & Music

Final blessings

May you know the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. May His spirit overshadow and consume you. May the song within you which sings for eternity, sing loudly. May the Father quiet the voices around you which tell you to settle for less than what He promises.

