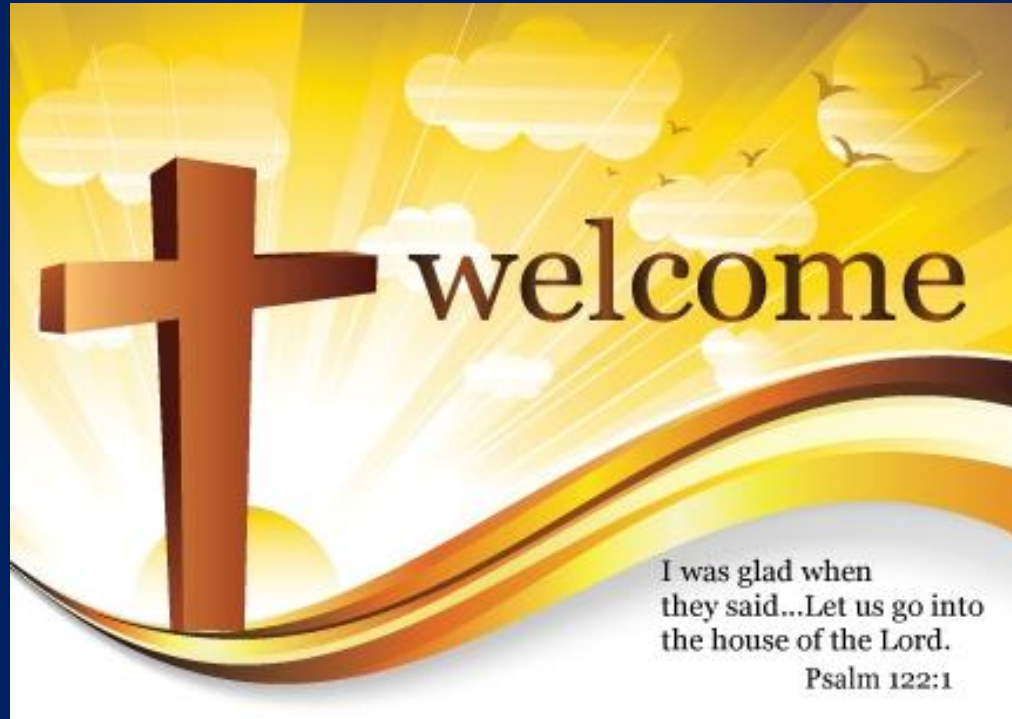


South Leicestershire Group United Reformed Church



Pentecost 4
Sunday 28th June 2020

This Powerpoint is intended for personal use
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Call to worship

The steadfast love of the Lord is established for ever.
His faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
The Lord invites us and welcomes us.
Let us worship the Lord.

A gathering prayer

Loving God, we gather in response to your invitation;
we gather together, welcomed by you.
May the warmth of your welcome
inspire and enhance the worship we offer to you.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Let us build a house
where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ
shall end divisions.

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place

Let us build a house
where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to
seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as
witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of
Jesus.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

<https://youtu.be/js8RtT0mJpc>

Let us build a house where
love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through
Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ
the feast that frees us.
All are welcome, all are
welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house
where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and
teach,
and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and
danger.

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house
where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed
as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim
from floor to rafter.

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Marty Hagen (b.1950)

A prayer of approach

O God, your Spirit draws us into your presence,
and so we come – drawn by love, upheld by grace –
to encounter Jesus, our Saviour.

We know him as our master.

We know him as our friend.

In him we see the Father, whose love sent Jesus to us.

Spirit, Son and Father,

we draw close in faith to offer our praise and worship.

Amen.

A prayer of confession

We are sorry, dear Lord, for the times we judge others and find them wanting. (pause)

We are sorry that we turn away from your children in their need. (pause)

We are sorry that we think we are too busy. (pause)

We are sorry for the times our welcome has been lukewarm.
(pause)

Forgive us, and help us to remember the warmth of your welcome, and to be inspired to share that warmth with all people.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Brothers and sisters,
now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God,
let us enjoy the sanctification that leads to eternal life.
For we know that the wages of sin is death, but the free gift
of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let us walk the pathways of righteousness, in the knowledge
that God's love surrounds us each and every step of the way,
Amen

Genesis 22:1-14

God has given Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac. Through him Abraham's line will continue. But now God seeks proof that Abraham is totally committed to him. Life is God's to give, and his to take away.

Genesis 22:1-14

¹ After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.

⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.

⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. ⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

¹⁴ So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

Romans 6:12-23

Paul has told his readers that baptism has changed their way of being. In the old way, God responded to their continual contravention of the Law by loving them more; now in the new way, sin is no more. He uses an analogy to explain the two ways of being.

Romans 6:12-23

¹² Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions.¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity

and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. ²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Thanks be to God, whose Church on earth

has stood the tests of time and place,
and everywhere proclaims new birth
through Christ whose love reveals God's
face.

Thanks be to God, whose Spirit sent
apostles out upon his way;
from east to west the message went;
on Greek and Roman dawned the day.

Thanks be to God, whose later voice
from west to east sent back the word
which, through the servants of his
choice,
at last in every tongue was heard.

Thanks be to God who now would reach
his listeners in more global ways;
now each will send the news, and each
receive and answer it in praise.

Thanks be to God, in whom we share
today the mission of his Son;
may all his Church that time prepare
when, like the task, the world is one.

Caryl Micklem (1925-)
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Rejoice & Sing 582

<https://youtu.be/E2u1djJ1ePE>

Matthew 10:40-42

Jesus comes to the end of his instructions to his disciples. He has told them that being his followers will not always be easy: some of them will face persecution. But there are rewards for those who welcome those who come in his name.

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Matthew 10:40-42

⁴⁰ "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth and height
to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)
Songs of Fellowship 316
Junior Praise 146(altd)
Mission Praise 396(132)
Rejoice & Sing 364

The end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

One of the hardest things to accept is that we will one day be making that journey where we will be freed of the struggles of this life and will enter into a new life, a life with God, where we will no longer be subject to the difficulties of the life we know now. It is a constant turmoil and sometimes one that we do not want to face but as Christians that struggle is all worth while because we know that one day we will all be singing in that heavenly choir where all the discords of human life have been shrugged away and we will be enjoying eternal life with God.

How do I know that this will be so? Firstly I am told in scripture that this is the way that it will be, in our reading from Paul's letter to the Romans he is reassuring those early Christians that life can be a struggle but in the end we will have sanctification with God because we have accepted the disciplines of our faith and though

sometimes failing we keep trying our best, and although the struggles can be quite challenging if we keep to the pathway the rewards are great, in fact they will last an eternity. This wonderful relationship that we have with God started with the relationship of one man and God, it was a difficult relationship, Abraham had no idea who was directing him but he had enough faith within him to go with all that God asked him to do, not that Abraham was a spring chicken, he was 75 when he was called to journey away from his homeland, according to tradition Abraham faced ten tests of his faith culminating with the preparation to sacrifice Isaac, I think that this last test of faith was heartbreaking and mentally a supreme test for Abraham, how cruel, but at the same time God has proven that Abraham's faith is complete and Abraham trusts God to care for him and his kinfolk completely. Abraham is one of the few folk who holds God to account arguing against the destruction of Sodom if righteous people remain there, such was the relationship between God and Abraham, a covenant so strong that Abraham was willing to prepare his one and only Son as a sacrifice. What are we

willing to sacrifice to cement our relationship with God? We know that God sacrifices his one and only Son (John 3:16) for our sakes, what do we need to do to have that relationship with God? Surely the answer is given in our Epistle reading from Paul's Letter to the church in Rome, it seems slightly ironic that Paul talks of slavery while we have the controversy of the Black Lives Matter raging as a current topic. What we need to do Paul asserts is to make our selves slaves to righteousness then we can truly develop that relationship with God, trouble is we are human and like our own way. Do we care what we say to people? Most human disputes are about lack of respect for the other person's point of view. I remember a difficult time at one of our General Assemblies, where the debate over human sexuality had reached such a low point that we had to hold another assembly specially convened for the sole purpose of bringing some resolution to the issue. There were unkind words said, and we all know that once something is said...it is difficult to take back without making everything worse. Accepting God into our life means only one thing,

we live in righteousness as 'slaves' to righteousness, Only then can we be certain that we are on the right pathway. For some that will be hard, the journey will be a struggle, as the struggle will be with our human nature which inevitably is centred on self. Being slavish to something is not what we want to be, but we are encouraged to be slaves to righteousness, and that means giving up self and selfish ambitions.

In our Gospel reading, albeit only three verses long, Jesus reassures the disciples that if they behave in a certain way, that they will reap the rewards of discipleship and so will those who welcome the disciples, 'these little ones', many Rabbis would refer to their protégés as 'these little ones' so if the people of that time welcomed the disciples, so they would also welcome God. There are many forms of service but we have discovered in the URC the service of hospitality is one of the most useful forms of service to the word, providing opportunities to show an unconditional welcome, where hospitality is shown, there flourishes opportunities to share the love of God. We need to develop our trust in God so that we can follow

The way, the truth and the life as we acknowledge our servitude to the ways of righteousness, rejecting worldly values and adopting not 'a holier than thou' attitude, but an attitude that says 'I have discovered a new way to live, come and join me, discover the height, breadth, width and depth of God's love for you' God's love is completely enfolding, totally surrounding and thoroughly uplifting, once you accept that Jesus 'happened' for you, you will never be the same, you will be a slave to righteousness and all the rewards that it brings. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:22-23

Offertory

*Your gifts for the work in your church are still needed.
If you can make any donation it will be gratefully received.
You can give on line, contact your church Treasurer for
details.*

*Loving God we bring these gifts to you
Help us to use them wisely
We thank you in the name of Jesus, Amen*



Let us come to The Lord's Table,
It looks familiar,
it is the one we use each day
Jesus transforms the ordinary into
the
EXTRAORDINARY
Come to this table
and be
REFRESHED

Sursum Corda

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise Loving God that in all times and places you have sustained us through the power of your Holy Spirit; help us as we realise our mission for you, help us to be you in the world, help us to welcome those who have not yet experienced your love for the world and for them, Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth we sing the triumphant hymn of glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Acclamation

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Communion Hymn

Here Is Bread

Here is bread, here is wine

Christ is with us, he is with us

Break the bread, drink the wine

Christ is with us here

Here is grace, here is peace

Christ is with us, he is with us

Know his grace, find his peace

Feast on Jesus here

In this bread there is healing

In this cup there's life forever

In this moment, by the Spirit

Christ is with us here

Here we are, joined in one

Christ is with us, he is with us

We'll proclaim, till he comes

Jesus crucified

In this bread there is healing

In this cup there's life forever

In this moment, by the Spirit

Christ is with us here

Graham Kendrick

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<https://youtu.be/w9nOWL30EP8>

Lift up the Bread and wine read and wine and say:

Loving God bless these ordinary things
so that they become extraordinary for us today.

Let your Holy Spirit inhabit us
and these gifts of bread and wine
(Put the wine down and Take the bread)

Saying:

as we remember that on the night when Jesus was
betrayed, he took a loaf of Bread, gave thanks for it,
Blessed it, Broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:

'Take, Eat, This is my body given for you,
Do this to remember me'

Eat the bread

Pick up the wine

After supper Jesus picked up the cup
and said to them

This is my blood of the new Covenant,
Shed for you and for many for the remission of sins.
Drink this to remember me

Drink then say 'Amen'

Lord Jesus, we thank you for this bread and wine, these
wonderful gifts that bring us close to you and our heavenly
Father, help us by your Holy Spirit to tell your story
to the world and to share your love with everyone

Amen

Post Communion Prayers

Prayers of intercession

We pray for those on the fringes of society;

for those who feel rejected;

for those who are overlooked;

for those whom others avoid.

May they know they are welcome in your kingdom.

We pray for those who are lonely and anxious for the future,

May they know they are welcome in your kingdom.

We pray for those in prison; especially those kept in isolation.

We pray for children excluded from school; for their families and those with responsibility for their education.

May they know they are welcome in your kingdom.

We pray for those who are sick and are desperate for an improvement in their health, loving God we are frail creatures indeed, when things start to go wrong we become worried and anxious, help us to know and give thanks for our National Health Service and for all who work to keep us well.

We pray for those who are worried waiting for the results of tests. May they know they are welcome in your kingdom.

We pray for those who are grieving, especially the Stewart family, and the Bartholomew family; we pray that they are surrounded by your loving care and that they know that you are caring for their loved ones. We pray for those who are hurting without the knowledge of your love. Help us to be instruments of that love as we support all who are grieving.

May they know they are welcome in your kingdom.

Loving God, as you welcome us, may we welcome others so that they may know that there is always a welcome for them in your kingdom,
Amen.

Prayer Requests

Please remember these people in Prayer each day

Norman Sketchley, Tim and Peter on the death of Jean and the congregation at Oadby URC – grieving a lost friend ; Tony and Pauline Hudson, ongoing illness; Betty and John; Elizabeth Richardson's brother in hospital with Sepsis.

Marion Daetwyler, had a fall; Hetty, not so well.

Pauline and Tony Hudson –ongoing illness

Marion Bartholomew and the family on the death of Richard and the congregation at South Wigston mourning Richard Bartholomew and Shirley Stewart both supporters of SWURC

The Stewart family as they prepare to say goodbye to Shirley

Also for Aldyth with a broken bone in her foot

Paddy Letts – a speedy recovery following a fall at home

Speedy recovery for Shirley – broken ankle, and bone in foot.

For Jean suffering an illness (whetstone)

Dorothea- still battling Covid 19 (she is slowly improving)

Judy Jennings' Mum – recovering from an operation

Judy –can't get to see Mum

All those feeling the pressure of lockdown; For our NHS and all who work in the care industry ;For all essential workers and our emergency services

Loving God

We remember all of our friends in each of the five churches within the South Leicestershire Group and our friends at Abbot's Road, we pray that they will look forward to joining together again for worship and being a gathered Community once more, praising you and giving thanks for you, we pray these things in the name of the Holy Spirit and Jesus, as we say together the Lord's Prayer (next slide)

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the power and the glory,
forever and ever, Amen.

Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake! Tune Woodlands
God's saving news to all the nations take:
proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord and King,
that all the world His glorious praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
he will in grace respond to all who call:
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of His word?

<https://youtu.be/XNyDdaqtuk0>

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:
share God's good gifts – let no one be denied;
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;
go till all nations His great name adore
and serve him, Lord and King forever more.

James E. Seddon. (1915-83) Copyright © Mrs M Seddon/Jubilate Hymns.
Songs of Fellowship 738 Mission Praise 178(61) Rejoice & Sing 574

A sending out prayer

Go in the name of Jesus,
to follow the way of Jesus,
to love with the love of Jesus,
and to be sustained by the peace of Jesus.

Amen.

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Office hours 9-5 Monday -Thursday, Saturday

Pastoral Emergencies anytime even Fridays

Acknowledgements:

Some prayers are taken and adapted from Roots on the web

Hymns

All are welcome Martyn Haugen Youtube Dan Loyola <https://youtu.be/js8RfT0mJpc> Feb 2018

Jesus Shall Reign (Tune - Truro) 3-verses
•11 Jun 2012 50SHARESAVEPipeOrganHymnsG0OJF?

Just as I am | Choir Masters' Association, Chennai, INDIA

165,937 views
•8 Apr 2020

Go Forth And Tell! [Hymn Channel](#)
Hymn Channel
3.31K subscribers 21,860 views
•3 Jun 2016

Here is bread here is wine drolas94
26,956 views
•30 Jul 2012 526SHARESAVE

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