

Sunday 7th March – Morning Worship

Today's service is the last in a series on stewardship and this time we are focussing on the stewardship of our gifts, our time and our money. Becky Clarke leads Paul Payne and Lizzy talk about our finances. They are hopefully going to dispel some myths and help us understand what we use the resources for, how those decisions were made and how we can contribute to the way that our church shares its resources in a measured, informed and positive way.

Introduction to the service

We watch a short clip of Hungry Hippos

We're going to be thinking about how that relates to us and how we live our lives both individually and as a church community.

What are the things that we have that we grab for and hold on to and shout "mine!"?

What about as a church. Are we a 'hungry hippo' as an organisation that grabs at people's resources, time, energy and money? Or is our motivation different: are we offering people the opportunity to share in giving to others through giving to the church?

Opening focus

We are here:

To worship God

To revel in his presence

To hear about him and develop our faith and our understanding of him

To tell him things we are concerned about and

To know that he wants to bless us through the coming days

Song –

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART, Lord,

Open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see You,

I want to see You.

(Repeat)

To see You high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory.

Pour out Your power and love,

As we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy,

Holy, holy, holy,

Holy holy holy,

I want to see You.

Paul Baloche

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Lizzy and Paul

Reading Mark 12:38-44

Read by Rachel

Summary from Becky

Song

The splendour of a King, clothed in majesty
Let all the Earth rejoice
All the Earth rejoice

He wraps himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
Trembles at His voice

*How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God*

Age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end

The Godhead Three in One
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

*How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God*

Confession

God our Father, we are sorry
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,
and acted ungratefully.
Hear our prayer. In your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,
but when we ignore the cry of the hungry.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

Pause for reflection

Absolution

May God who loves the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Name above all names
Worthy of our praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

You're the name above all names
You are worthy of our praise
And my heart will sing
How great is our God

*Then sings my soul
My saviour God to thee
How great thou art,
how great thou art*

*How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God*

Chris Tomlin

We are sometimes thoughtless,
and do not care enough for the world you have made.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

When we are greedy and store up goods for ourselves
alone,
as if there were no God and no heaven.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

When we allow people, organisations and desires
to grab the resources that we should be keeping aside
for you:
forgive us and help us.

Song

EVERLASTING GOD,

The years go by, but You're unchanging.
In this fragile world, You are the only firm foundation.
Always loving, always true,
Always merciful and good, so good.

*Yesterday, today and forever,
You are the same, You never change.
Yesterday, today and forever,
You are faithful and we will trust in You.*
(Second time)
We will trust in You, we will trust in You.

Uncreated One,
You have no end and no beginning.
Earthly powers fade, But there is no end to Your
kingdom.

Always loving, always true,
Always merciful and good, so good.

Yahweh, God unchanging.
Yahweh, firm foundation.
(Repeat)

Brenton Brown

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer – New Zealand version

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
Sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In the times of temptations and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.
Amen**

Notices

Song

May the mind of Christ, my Saviour,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power.

May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

May His beauty rest upon me
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only Him.

Katie Barclay Wilkinson

Dismissal and Blessing