**PRINTED WORSHIP MATERIAL FOR SUNDAY 1ST AUGUST 2021**

**The Work of God**

*Lord, give us eyes to see – to really see; hearts that believe – really believe; minds that understand – really understand; and lives that proclaim you as the living bread to all who are in any kind of need. Amen.*

**HYMN**Father, Lord of all creation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyguLv5A_b4>

**PRAYERS OF APPROACH, CONFESSION & ADORATION**
As we prepare to read words of Scripture, Lord, we pray that you would draw us into a deeper understanding of all that John’s Gospel is offering us. Grant us clarity of thought, openness of heart and eagerness of Spirit to receive all it has to say to us and to share it with others.

Forgive us, Lord, when we use people and value them only for what they can give us, not for who they really are. Help us to see you, Lord, not only as our Saviour but as our role model,

that we might be generous in our giving and obedient in your service. We ask this in your name.

Christ the living God, we adore you and bless you, for you give us the essentials in life – but most of all you give us yourself, the living bread. Help us to be slow to complain and quick to share. And lead us from being believers to believers in you, our Friend, our Teacher and our Saviour. **Amen.**

**READINGS: EXODUS 16.2-4, 9-15**; PSALM 78.23-29; **JOHN 6.24-35;** EPHESIANS 4.1-16

**PICK AND MIX HYMN(S)**Christ is the King, O friends rejoice

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

I am the bread of life (Toolan)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvD0XJzOWQ4>

Jesus the Lord said, I am the bread

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

Let there be love shared among us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Be0PnbdKkkc>

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QA_g98O42Q4>

Thank you for every new good morning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ym7__rzAO2w>

**REFLECTION**

Can we live by bread alone or do we need cake as well? On the whole it is hard for us to imagine what living on a diet of just a few items is like, eating the same thing day after day. In our Old Testament reading we hear how the people escaping from Egypt with Moses ate food miraculously supplied day by day. There was just enough to stay alive, no more. What is enough for the day? Are we able, in today’s culture and economy, to deal with one day at a time? Whether we have money in the bank for tomorrow, or debts to be settled tomorrow, in today’s culture we generally try to plan ahead.

The Israelites, having said that they would rather be dead than hungry, may well have complained about the monotony of their new diet of bread and quail when they realised it would sustain them for 40 years! Freed from slavery, they chose to enslave themselves to worrying about bread. Similarly, we are quick to complain instead of giving thanks, feeling we never have enough to offset the need to worry about tomorrow, holding onto our hunger and thirst for security. Jesus takes the crowd’s knowledge of God’s provision of bread in the desert and turns it into a metaphor for himself, the true bread from heaven. If we trust, if we believe in him, we have what we really need.

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

Gracious God, we pray for those who find it hard to believe that their lives can change;

those who feel they will never have enough money to live on;

those who feel they will never find work;

those who despair that there will ever be peace in their country;

those who despair that they will ever be well;

those who have given up believing that they can be forgiven;

those who struggle to go on believing in themselves;

those who struggle to go on believing in you.

Lord, be their strength, be their assurance and be their hope.

We ask this in Jesus’ name.

**Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Think of up to 10 things that you think are essential to you: things that you can’t do without in your life, or wouldn’t want to do without – which might be very different things! Now say a simple prayer of thanks for each item. Having brought them before God, do they still all seem essential? Light a candle or place an item somewhere as a symbol of our ongoing need.

**HYMN**Alleluia, Sing to Jesus
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJDWFYIkBns>

Pray for those who lack the basic necessities of life. As you go about, wherever you are, look out for one thing to give special thanks for.

*With acknowledgement to Roots resources for some of this material*