

## **Apart but Together Worship – Hornsea URC** **Shoebox Sunday – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Welcome to the service today. Our worship today includes our Shoebox Sunday service



Hymn 1 Let us build a house – [CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

### **Prayer of Thanks**

Jesus, as we put our trust in you  
I find courage and know we are not alone  
For you know when we are out of our depth  
Afraid and anxious  
And you sustain me with words of comfort

Sometimes, when it seems the world favours the powerful, the important  
You choose, instead the ordinary  
And those many would deem as nothing at all  
That fills us with hope

We are just us Jesus  
Yet when we feel weak. We become strong in your spirit  
Shine your light of love  
So that our path is illuminated  
And night becomes as a light of day

In your love we find refuge  
A little island of calm  
Knowing that you will never let us down

Help me follow in your way

For you, Jesus are our rock and fortress  
And we thank you with all our heart  
AMEN

We share now together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

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 trespassers against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever  
Amen

Our reading this morning is taken from 2 Corinthians vs 8

**Reading :2 Corinthians 8 1-5**

*Our brother and sisters, we want you to know what God's Grace has accomplished in the churches in Macedonia. They have been severely tested by the troubles they went through, but their joy was so great that they were extremely generous in their giving, even though they are very poor. I can assure you that they gave as much as they could, and even more than they could. Of their own free will, they begged, pleaded for the privilege of having a part in helping God's people in Judea. It was more than we could have hoped for! And then by God's will they gave themselves to us as well.*

Our second Hymn this morning is a beautiful hymn written by Keith and Kristin Getty, reminding us how God cares and looks after us.

Hymn : He will hold me fast – [CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

**Address**

This Sunday is know as Shoebox Sunday. Every year many boxes filled with essentials and Christmas gifts to be sent to children over the world. Samaritans Purse bring joy to a sometimes and more likely difficult times.

Now every year, but not unfortunately this year, our group of Pilots Youth group would have been filling boxes with gloves, hats, soap, toothpaste. Even the elastic band can be used for other purposes. Our Pilots enjoy doing this but more importantly they see and appreciate that some children are very disadvantaged compared with their own life.

The good news though is that this is still going ahead, but differently. We would like to thank Mandy Hood and her ladies who has worked all the year round collecting bits and bobs that fit in the boxes, she has carried on so that the children do not miss out this year



We live a very different life here and take it for granted. Our children have so much available to them, the majority live in safety and should be very thankful. In comparison the children who receive the boxes do not have this available to them. But one thing is shared, the joy of receiving a wrapped box, and the need to offer something as a gift.



We all know that it is good to help, and this is central to a Christian Faith, to give makes us feel better, to offer the love of God with generosity is just one aspect our faith asks of us. We would normally be in our church and Kathy would be showing us photographs of happy smiling children receiving a box. so let's not change the tradition, we are going to see some pictures and a video showing their joy.





We heard in the reading how even the church of Macedonia had experienced distress, they felt thankfulness from God that he had brought them through their troubles. An in return they wanted to share this thankfulness with the people of Judea.

"They first gave themselves to the Lord and then by God's will they gave themselves to us as well"

However and whatever we feel about our unwanted friend who is changing our lives, it has brought out the generous nature in people, it was already present with our community, but the call of those who are in need have brought the best out in people.

Christmas is a special time for families, and giving a gift to someone is very special, so let's take heart and enjoy the thought that simple items together can bring such joy  
End

## The Amazing Journey of a Simple Shoebox Gift Begins with You....

A simple shoebox gift packed with love and fuelled by prayer can have a huge impact! Watch how Operation Christmas Child brings Good News and great joy to children around the world.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD VIDEO](#)

Our third hymn is Brother Sister let me serve you – [CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

### **Prayers of intercession**

Lord of all

We pray for all who are searching for peace in their lives

Those burdened with anxiety

Either about themselves or their loved ones facing difficulties and problems

God of Peace

Reach out and still the storm

Lord of all

We pray for those living among change and upheaval

Especially those who have worries about mixing in the community

God of Peace

Reach out and still the storm

Lord of all

Reach out to all for whom the future seems uncertain

And bring the assurance that even in the darkest moments

We have the faith to know that you will not leave us lost and without hope

God of Peace

Reach out and still the storm

Grant the confidence that there is nothing in heaven or earth that can separate us from your love, Through Christ our Lord  
Amen

### Blessing

We are blessed to be part of your life and share our love with others in the world, and on this day we ask that the father, son, and Holy Spirit be with us and all those we prayer for.