

Apart but Together Worship
Hornsea URC – 31st January 2021

Welcome to our service for World Leprosy Sunday 2021



I am joining you today as a volunteer speaker for The Leprosy Mission

At Hornsea URC you have been faithful supporters of the work of the Leprosy Mission for many years for which we are very grateful. But I hope you don't mind if I go over some of the basic facts about leprosy during the service for anyone joining us for the first time.

Our opening sentences are from Matthew Chapter 22:

Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and most important commandment.

The second most important commandment is like it; Love your neighbour as you love yourself.

The whole law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Let's start with one of my favourite worship songs, 10000 Reasons.

10,000 Reasons – [CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

Who are The Leprosy Mission?

We are a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Following Jesus Christ, we seek to bring about transformation; breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness

Every two minutes, someone is diagnosed with leprosy. That's more than 200,000 new cases a year. Although it is curable, millions of people worldwide are living with the effects of the disease, from physical disability to mental health problems, poverty and discrimination.

Everything we do is focused on our goals of zero leprosy transmission, zero leprosy disability and zero leprosy discrimination.

We work in four key areas to achieve this:

Diagnosing and treating

Caring for those disabled by the disease

Fighting stigma and advocating for change

And by pioneering research

Please visit leprosymission.org.uk to find out more about our work.





We now come to a time of prayer and today I am using a hymn.

All that I am, all that I have. [CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

I hope you will feel able to pray these words with me today.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be your name.

Your Kingdom come, Your 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 Kingdom, the power, and the glory

For ever and ever, Amen



Well, the last 12 months have been a bit of a challenge haven't they?

Not being able to worship in our building, not being able to see family and friends.

One of the things I have missed is tea and toasted fruit bread in The Secret Garden with my sister!

We asked some of our young people what they had missed and here are their answers:

Video – [CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

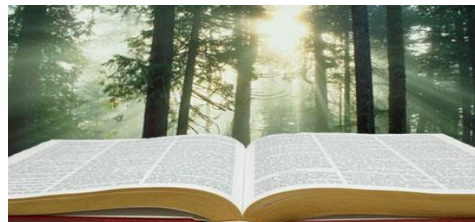
Seems we are all missing friends and family, school, going out to socialise, but at least we know that one day, hopefully quite soon, lockdown will be lifted, and we can get back to the things that we enjoy.

Unfortunately, for people living with leprosy it is like living in a permanent lockdown.

Because of the fear and stigma surrounding the disease people are driven out of their families and villages. Children are not able to go to school, people with leprosy are not able to work. People hide their symptoms and don't get treatment until irreversible disability has taken place.

TLM are working hard to educate people not to fear leprosy or people with leprosy and get families back together.

Our next hymn is How Deep the Fathers Love – [CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)



Our first Bible reading is from Luke Chapter 5

Jesus Heals a Man

¹² Once Jesus was in a town where there was a man who was suffering from leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he threw himself down and begged him, “Sir, if you want to, you can make me clean!”^[a]

¹³ Jesus reached out and touched him. “I do want to,” he answered. “Be clean!” At once the disease left the man. ¹⁴ Jesus ordered him, “Don't tell anyone, but go straight to the priest and let him examine you; then to prove to everyone that you are cured, offer the sacrifice as Moses ordered.”

¹⁵ But the news about Jesus spread all the more widely, and crowds of people came to hear him and be healed from their diseases. ¹⁶ But he would go away to lonely places, where he prayed.

Our second reading is from 1 John chapter 4.

God Is Love

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹ And God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him.

¹⁰ This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven.

¹¹ Dear friends, if this is how God loved us, then we should love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in union with us, and his love is made perfect in us.

¹⁶ And we ourselves know and believe the love which God has for us. God is love, and those who live in love live in union with God and God lives in union with them.

¹⁷ Love is made perfect in us in order that we may have courage on the Judgment Day; and we will have it because our life in this world is the same as Christ's. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; perfect love drives out all fear. So then, love has not been made perfect in anyone who is afraid, because fear has to do with punishment.

¹⁹ We love because God first loved us.

UNCONDITIONAL

Matching your donations with
 UKaid

 The Leprosy Mission

THE
UNCONDITIONAL
APPEAL

 The Leprosy Mission

LEPROSY SUNDAY — 2021

There are conditions on most things in life.

At school you have to wear a uniform, not run in the corridors, do your homework.

At work you have to turn up at a certain time and do the jobs allotted to you in order to get paid.

Some people put conditions on friendships – I will be your friend as long as you.....

What about church? Do we put conditions on without realising it?

- You are welcome at our church... if you look like us and think like us!

Unconditional means – not subject to any conditions

Unconditional love, simply put, is love without strings attached. It is love you offer freely. You don't base it on what someone does for you in return.

You simply love them and want nothing more than their happiness.

There are many stories in the Bible which show unconditional love:

Ruth – left her country and her family to go with Naomi to a strange land with different customs and a different God.

The Prodigal Son – The father let his son go and do what he wanted but welcomed him back with open arms.

See how many you can think of, and perhaps read some of them again this week.

Jesus showed unconditional love in His life on earth. He welcomed everyone, tax collectors, foreigners, and people with leprosy.

And in our reading we heard Jesus tell us 'Love as I have loved you'

Can we show unconditional love to everyone?

God's love for us is unconditional.

He created us and loves us as we are.

We can't earn that love by going to church each week, remembering to pray or helping someone with their shopping.

God loves us - no strings attached.


And in its work across the world TLM seek to show that unconditional love to all people who come to them for help.

Our next hymn is In Christ Alone – [CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)



Let us pray:

Lord God, your love for humankind
present in the beginning of all things,
extends throughout history
and touches even my life.
Your love sees failings
and forgives.
Your love feels pain
and wipes away our tears.
Your love knows grief
and comforts the sorrowful.
Your love sees sin
and still loves the sinner.
Forgive us when we fail to live
lives that reflect your love.
Forgive us the many times
when we take for granted
all that you have done for us.
Transform us, through your Spirit,
and empower us to serve you,
this day and all days
Amen



MOZAMBIQUE 2021

The Leprosy Mission

- In 2019, 2,200 new cases of leprosy, 211 were children.
- Large country, but sparsely populated with 29 million people.
- 45% of the population is younger than 15 years old.
- Ranked 180 out of 189 on UN's Human Development Index.
- Two in three people live in extreme poverty on less than US\$1.90 per day.
- Natural disasters, disease, high population growth and unequal distribution of wealth = extreme poverty.

LEPROSY SUNDAY — 2021

The Leprosy Mission Appeal this year is for the people of Mozambique.

Mozambique is a tough country to live in. It's the 7th most deprived country in the world. Almost a third of its population is malnourished and literacy levels are low.

On top of this, like us, they are having to deal with COVID-19.

You can watch a video here, hosted by Darcy Bussell on the work of the Leprosy Mission – [CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

As you can see TLM are sharing the unconditional love of Jesus with leprosy sufferers and their families and communities, changing lives, giving people a new start.

Our final hymn is 'I am a new creation' –

2 Corinthians 5:17 says:

¹⁷ Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come.

This version has the bsl signs if you want to give it a go.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

**THANK
YOU SO
MUCH**



The Leprosy
Mission

THE
UNCONDITIONAL
APPEAL



Thank you for letting me tell you about this year's appeal from TLM.

I do hope you feel you can be a Changemaker for someone with leprosy.

And don't forget if you are able to donate before the 24th April 2021 The Government will double your gift with UK Aid Matchfunding.



To donate go to: unconditionalappeal.org.uk

Ring: 01733 370505

Let us pray:

Lord, we thank you for the work of the Leprosy Mission across the world

Changing lives by showing unconditional love

Help us, too, to become Changemakers in the world and in our own communities that all may know your unconditional love.

Amen