

St Leonard's Church Southminster
Family Celebration

13th February 2022

Theme: Blessed to be a Blessing

Song (before the service):

The UK Blessing

<https://youtu.be/PUtlI3mNj5U>

PREPARATION

Welcome

Call to worship

We are blessed to be here today.

We are blessed to be together today.

We are blessed to be a family.

We are blessed that God is with us.

Let us enjoy this blessing as we worship today.

Gathering prayers

We meet in the name of God:

God the Father,

God the Son,

God the Spirit:

God is one.

Lord, thank you that we are blessed.

Help us to recognise all that you have given to us.

We pray that not only will we reflect on your blessings,

We will also be a blessing to others,

With your help and in your name.

Amen.

Hymn

10,000 Reasons

https://youtu.be/DXDGE_IRI0E

Notices

Saying sorry to God

We come to God as one from

whom no secrets are hidden,

to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

We confess to you our selfishness

and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and
failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.
Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
We confess to you our
stubbornness and lack of trust:
Fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Receive God's forgiveness

May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Set the scene

This week we explore how
we are blessed by God.
and other people,
and how this can overflow
into blessings for others.

Picture

How does this image make you feel?
When do you feel full of God's blessings?
In what ways can you be a blessing to others?

Action Songs: **Great Big God** <https://youtu.be/q8fcpShP19c>
 I Will Bend Down

THE WORD

Bible Reading (dramatised)

Luke 6. 17-26

Two volunteers who sit on different sides of the congregation with a large card – one saying 'Blessed' and the other 'Woe'.

Narrator:

Jesus came down from the mountain and stood on the plain, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases: and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch Jesus, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

*Jesus moves to centre stage;
as he begins to speak,
the volunteer with the 'Blessed' card
stands up, holds up the card, and turns slowly
through 360° so that all can see it.*

Jesus:

Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.
Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.
Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.
Blessed are you when people hate you,
and when they exclude you, revile you,
and defame you on account of the Son of Man.
Rejoice on that day and leap for joy,
for surely your reward is great in heaven;
for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

*The first volunteer sits down.
The second volunteer stands up
holds up the 'Woe' card, and turns
slowly through 360° as Jesus speaks.*

Jesus:

But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.
Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.
Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.
Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for that is what their ancestors did to

the false prophets.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Bible (video format)

'Blessed are the Agnostics'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctcjNCrGyT8>

A contemporary take on the 'Beatitudes' by Nadia Bolz-Weber, American Lutheran minister and writer.

Talk <https://youtu.be/-TJycEDQ4ys>

Reflection

Kindness Boomerang (video)

<https://youtu.be/nwAYpLVyeFU>

Hymn 460

May God's blessing surround you each day,

As you trust Him and walk in His way.

May His presence within

Guard and keep you from sin,

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

Affirmation of faith

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,**

**And the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS

Intercessions led by Karen Flack

The Lord's Prayer (with actions)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Craft (explained by Karen) Blessed to be a Blessing

CONCLUSION

Song

This is Amazing Grace

<https://youtu.be/zPQKj2Zptr0>

Closing Prayer & Blessing

The Lord bless us and watch over us,
The Lord make his face shine upon us
And be gracious to us,
The Lord look kindly on us
And give us peace;
And may the blessing
of God the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with us and remain with us always
Amen.

Song: Counting Every Blessing <https://youtu.be/Ehg8MZvYiaM>