

**ST.ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
SUNDAY 12 AUGUST 2018 at 10.45am**

**Welcome** by Elder

**Call to Worship** : The Lord be with you/ And also with you

**Introduction**

**Rejoice & Sing 360** Come, thou fount of every blessing

**Prayers of Adoration & Confession** *interspersed with "Kyrie Eleison R&S 5(c)*  
**Declaration of Forgiveness**

**OT Lesson** : Exodus 16 v.2-4 and 9-15 *reader, please*

**Rejoice and Sing 685** Through all the changing scenes of life

**Epistle** : Ephesians 4 v. 25 to 5 v. 2 *Jenny C to read from "Good as New"*

**Rejoice and Sing 529** Light of the minds that know thee

**Gospel** : John 6 v. 35 and 41-51 *reader, please*

**Anthem** : O Taste and See (*Vaughan Williams*)

**Sermon**

**Rejoice and Sing 554** Thou art the Way

**Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession and Petition**

**The Lord's Prayer** (traditional version)

**Offering and Dedication**

**Rejoice and Sing 623** Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round

**Blessing**

"O taste and see that the Lord is good"

"Taster sessions" for all kinds of activities to see whether this is something you want to delve into further. Freshers'Week all the societies make their pitch. Various classes free session before you have to commit yourselves. Children will say they don't like a food they've never tried – taste and see. Some things are "an acquired taste" – we use that phrase not just of foods e.g. olives; dark chocolate but perhaps of some kinds of modern

art or classical music or even certain styles of worship!

Favourite passage John 1 where J the B points out Jesus – Look - the Lamb of God 2 disciples follow Jesus. Aware of being tailed Jesus says "What do you want?" "Rabbi, where are you staying?" "Come and see". They spent the rest of the day with him – it was about the tenth hour – 4 o'clock in the afternoon. So probably only a couple of hours, but enough to want to become his disciples. Enough to make Andrew full of excitement go straight to find his brother saying "We have found the Messiah". They both join up for the full-time course as companions of Jesus.  
Companion = literally one who shares bread with another'

OT lesson : After a time of what seems like aimless wandering in the desert, the Hebrews (rabble) start grumbling. It is hard going, both food and water are in short supply. "We were better off in Egypt: at least there we had food to eat." Moses appeals to God and he sends a flock of quails and then daily manna. But they soon got fed up with that, too. Parallel passage in Numbers 11 says " We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost – also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite : we never see anything but this manna!"

Manna literally "What is it?" Strange, but adequate to keep them going. NB daily provision, it couldn't be stored overnight it went bad. Truth about daily reliance on God. Enough for the family or enough for one. "To each according to his need".  
"Bread that came down from heaven". Recent announcement of £2m from Department for Education budget for provision of food and activities for school age children during the holidays. Free school lunches ( and often breakfast as well) vital for many poor families, so harder in the holidays. e.g. 10-12 activities for younger children then lunch for all then 1-3 activities for older children.

Jesus in this amazing John 6 chapter speaks of himself as the bread that came down from heaven or the bread of life. Like the manna, but not like the manna. It comes after the feeding of the five thousand with ACTUAL bread and fish. But he doesn't send bread he IS bread. John's gospel does not include a detailed account of the Last Supper in which Jesus offers bread and wine saying "this is my body, broken for you" and "this is my blood, shed for you." Rather he tells of Jesus washing the disciples' feet and then giving bread dipped in wine to Judas – special titbit.

Gospel of John with its seven "I AM" claims is emphatically showing the divinity of Jesus. " I am for you" "I am for all the world". If God is **for** us, who can be against us.

Identification with Jesus in his death most poignant in Holy Communion. Not just **remembering** the Passover meal with his disciples, but **re-membering** the community of the Church. Individual and corporate. We feed on the body of Christ to become more completely the Body of Christ, his Church.

We share in the suffering and death of Jesus ( my body broken for you) and also his risen life (the blood poured out – life blood) – think of it as a blood transfusion.

We give thanks "Eucharist" = Greek for Thanksgiving, for what God has done for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and for the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, in the Church and in the world.

Not just survival from day to day

Not just food for the journey

But a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all people.

30 hymns in The Lord's Supper section of *Rejoice & Sing*.

441 Be known to us in breaking bread,  
but do not then depart,  
Saviour, abide with us, and spread  
your table in our heart.

There sup with us in love divine;  
your body and your blood,  
that living bread, that heavenly wine,  
be our immortal food.

*James Montgomery*

448 Here, Lord, we take the broken bread  
and drink the wine, believing  
that by your life our souls are fed,  
your parting gifts receiving.

As you have given, so we would give  
ourselves for others' healing;  
and as you lived, so we would live  
the Father's love revealing.

*C. V. Pilcher*