

## 20221030 Reflection and Bringing our Gifts

This is a story of Jesus seeing all the people who had come to hear him. They had walked a long way and there were no shops where they could buy their meal. Jesus was wondering what to do when a little boy came and gave him a gift of bread and fish.

It wasn't much. It was probably the little boy's lunch, but Jesus was very grateful to receive it and in some special way managed to make it enough to give all the people something to eat. They even had lots of food left over.

When we hear stories like this, they are beautiful stories to think about. What does the story really mean?

Maybe it means that, even though we are small and don't feel very important, we can give gifts to Jesus to help change things and make the world a more loving place.

It doesn't necessarily food but just things about ourselves. If you think about yourself, what do you like best about yourself? What do you think you give to other people just because they know you?

What I think of myself, I think I am usually a rather kind person. I think I could bring my kindness and give it to Jesus. Because I can't see him these days, I know he would like me to give my kindness to other people.

Maybe you are brave, or you can think well, or you are good at making things or helping clean up, or perhaps you are good at being friends with people?

Whatever you think you are good at is the gift you bring to Jesus by being yourself, and offering the thing you are good at to others – like the boy who gave his bread and fish to Jesus. He was good at sharing, wasn't he?

### ***Bringing Our Gifts***

I brought a picnic mat here. You can sit here.

In these baskets are pieces of paper and pencils. If you like, you can take some paper and a pencil and think of what you like best about yourself.

Write it on the paper or do a little drawing of yourself on the paper and just think what you are good at. When you are ready, put it in one of the baskets which we will pass around. The congregation will do the same thing.

Then we will put the baskets on the cloth. Of course, there will not be food in these picnic baskets but lots of other good things to share with people.

*The baskets are passed around and the children place their gifts in the baskets.*