

on the Lord, give yourselves no rest". When the wine gave out, Mary approached Jesus for help. Sometimes, we need someone to help us ask and pray. We thank God for his goodness!

Hymn: 51 'Great is thy faithfulness'

Activity:

1. Church, you may wish to write a letter of invitation to Jesus to be in your life! What would you like say:

.....

2. Please, read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 to find the following words: Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracle, Prophecy, Discern, Tongue, Spirit, Same, Utterances, Gift, God, Jesus, Idols.

W	M	F	A	I	T	H	U	H	P
D	I	S	C	E	R	N	T	E	R
J	R	S	P	I	R	I	T	A	O
E	A	E	D	A	T	B	E	L	P
S	C	O	G	O	D	F	C	I	H
U	L	M	S	A	M	E	I	N	E
S	E	T	O	N	G	U	E	G	C
K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E	Y
U	T	T	E	R	A	N	C	E	S

Then, describe how you utilize your spiritual gifts?

.....

3. Describe how Psalm 36:5-10 relate to your life?

.....

Hymn: 652 'Lord, we come to ask your healing'

Church in Prayer:

We have just celebrated Christmas, the birth of our Lord. This reminded us of God's greatest gift to humanity, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dear Lord, as we come before you, we open our hearts and ears to the cries of those in need and pray for their wellbeing. **Lord, teach us how to go to great lengths to help each other.**

Christmas has been a time, for family and friends, of gifts exchange and love sharing. May we continue to live as generous neighbours and families, beyond Christmas celebrations and expectations. **Lord, bless our families and friends.**

We remember those at this time who are suffering physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. We bring to you those who are in prison, hospitals, housebound, lonely, worried, and upset at this time. **Lord, continue to be our healer!**

We ask that you continue to give us the strength and energy that we need as we work for you through the challenges of Covid-19. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

You minister to all who come to you; look with compassion upon all who have lost loved ones, their health and freedom; **Lord, restore to them the assurance of your mercy and remove the fears that may impede the work of their recovery.**

Other prayer concerns.....

We ask these prayers in the name of your son Jesus Christ our Lord who is making all things new. **The Lord's Prayer... Amen!**

Hymn: 524 'Listening God, you hear us'

The Blessing - By Rev Marcus Torchon

COVENTRY & NUNEATON
 METHODIST CHURCH
Worship is our Way of Life!

Delight in God's

Goodness!

Write the names of those close to you around the Cross:



16th January 2022

Other Readings:
 Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10,

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

Order of Service

The Worship of God by the People of God!

Let us sing to the Lord:

Hymn 446 "I will offer up my life"

Prayer: Almighty God, you have created all things and have demonstrated your power and love to all of humanity. All glory, honour and praise belong to you. We adore you for your power. We praise you for your goodness. We magnify your name for your faithfulness that is new every morning.

Loving God, forgive us that we have not followed you in treating each other with respect, care, love, and justice. Forgive us that we are sometimes so selfish and unkind with the things that belong to you. Forgive us of all our sins.

Faithful God, we continue to thank you for the gift of this new year, for life and the blessings of this world. We thank you for knowing that amid the chaos that is our world, we have a God who loves us.

Journeying God, we now put everything in your hands, our times and circumstances, our nations and our families, our occupations and expectations, our rights and obligations. May your Holy Spirit of wisdom help us to act in every situation according to your Word and will. Bless us all we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen (*Bishop Roosevelt Papouloute*).

Hymn 481 "The Lord's my shepherd"

Reflection

It is amazing to realize the depth and length, the width and heights of God's love and goodness in the Bible, translated into real life. On this, let's look at today's readings more closely.

Nicknaming in love - God is always good!

Isaiah 62:1-5 shows how God is good in the use of his words, words of acceptance and, rooted in love. He did not stand on ceremony within relationships he treasured with his people. In fact, "*I will speak out to encourage Jerusalem*", says the Lord. As for me, encouragement from my Lord has kept my feet grounded. Thank you, Lord!

To encourage, God referred to Jerusalem or Zion as "*a crown of beauty*", "*a royal diadem*", and affirmed "*my delight is in her*", that you will be called, "*Sought After*" and "*City No Longer Deserted*" (Isaiah 62:12). Like a poet, God used affirmative nicknames and metaphors to describe what he is doing with a city that has been deserted. Nicknames and metaphors offered God a frame of reference to demonstrate how passionate, considerate, and committed God was to promises of restoration and prosperity made to people in despair. *Church, what nicknames would God use to demonstrate his love and offer words of reassurance to you, personally?*

In this way, how can we learn from God, in our love relationships, to nickname and affirm one another, in agape love?

Faithful in Love - Then Psalm 36 invites us to further appreciate God's goodness. What's on offer for us here, someone may ask? Well, the faithful love of the Lord, the salvation of our Lord is. God "*saves humans and animals alike*". In the shadow of his wings, they may find comfort and safety. They can "*feast on the abundance of God's house*" there, "*God gives them drink from the river of his delights*". In the end, the Psalmist affirmed, "*For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.*" **Church, in Christ, we**

receive the abundance of God's generosity, how do we then say goodbye to living on scraps, spiritually?

A basket of gifts – Let us now turn to 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 where Paul outlines a list of spiritual gifts – these are for you and me! What a privilege, what an honour to be presented with all these gifts! Who then is the source of these gifts? The Source is our God in the power of the Spirit. On this Paul affirms, "*All these (gifts) are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses*". A life of abundance consists of God's gifts. Likewise, the goodness of the Lord is reflected in the gifts that the Spirit allocates to us, individually, to serve. *Church, how often do you get to practice your spiritual gifts?*

Heavenly Supply - John's reading tells us of a wedding in Cana where Jesus transformed water into wine. At first, we note that an invitation was sent to Jesus. This means, Jesus didn't turn up to the wedding uninvited. This is a case of great significance for us to emulate in that it is beneficial to invite Jesus to our life - marriage, family home, work. Jesus waits for the invitation to transform our wilderness into an oasis, our water into wine, our scarcity into abundance, our sadness into joy, and our disappointment into opportunity. **Church, Jesus will be there in your life to top up your energy with heavenly strengths, at your invitation!**

While God's delight is richly and abundantly available, we need to want it by asking. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt 7.7). On this Isaiah says, "*You who call*