

LiFT Online No 5 – July 2020

Banquet

Welcome to July's LiFT Online. Traditionally this month has been our "foody" month where we would share an evening snack and drink, listen to God and then pray together. My suggestion for this month is to find yourself something to eat and drink as you join in with our time of Prayer.

Lord Jesus please come and join us as we meet together, in our homes. Please bless the food we eat and reveal more of Yourself through words, music and food. Amen.

Please read the passage below, taking time to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through individual words or phrases. If something comes to mind that you don't understand, take time to ask Him what it means for you and, if your mind wanders, just go with the flow and see where the Spirit leads you.

Alternatively you can listen here to the passage which is taken from The Passion Translation:

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AmMjDOz5X7aDg4UluPQOntk3C9mn4w?e=devhRa>

The Parable of the Great Banquet

15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

16 Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. **17** At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

18 "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

19 "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

20 "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

21 "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

22 "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

²³ “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴ I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”
Luke 14:15-24

If someone were to approach you on the street and invited you to come to a banquet, held by a local dignitary, dressed as you are, right now, how would you react? Would your first reaction be one of surprise, wariness, excitement, delight, honoured or cared for or would you turn the invitation down?

We are not told how many people readily accepted the invitation or if any refused, but would your reaction have been different if you knew that it was Jesus who was host?

Written for a Communion Service – “Come to the Banquet” by Fay White

<https://youtu.be/czRLWLOoqj8>

A short reflection on the food we are eating

What is it about the food that you have chosen that you particularly like?

Is it something that you eat often or something for a special occasion?

Take time to think about - look appeal, texture, taste and smell.

Think about the elements that make the food that you are enjoying and what is the Holy Spirit saying to you through them?

To give an example, when putting this together I chose plain crisps as I don't eat them very often so they are a bit of a luxury and relatively easy to cope with ingredient wise, there being only three, potato, sunflower oil and salt.

Potatoes – solid, different sizes, nourishing, comforting, filling satisfying,

Sunflower oil – reminded me of the brightness of the sunflower heads, cheering, joyful, beautiful, full of seeds for future growth,

Salt – gives flavour and from the Bible “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.” Mark 9:50

Maybe you have chosen something natural or maybe it has been manufactured in some way. Take time now to thank God for his provision of all things to you, and also be thankful to those who have been part of the chain of bringing food to market – growers, harvesters, manufacturers, delivery vans etc and retail staff.

Please now take about 10minutes to sit quietly and listen to God for words and pictures for the Church and for one another. If you receive something for an individual that you are confident to share with them, please do.

Intercessions

As always please be led by the Holy Spirit and here are a few items for prayer to help you:

The safe return of Church next month.

Those still shielding and those who are unwell.

Safe travel and return for those holidaying at home and abroad.

All countries affected by Covid 19 outbreaks especially where healthcare systems are limited.

Countries experiencing drought, famine or natural disaster.

Our Mission Partners.

Finally, to bring our time together to a close:

Is He Worthy by Chris Tomlin

<https://youtu.be/-c6pl6CaiD0>

²⁴ **““The LORD bless you**

and keep you;

²⁵ **the LORD make his face shine on you**

and be gracious to you;

²⁶ **the LORD turn his face toward you**

and give you peace.”” Numbers 6:24-26

Keep safe and God Bless.

Margaret