

**16 Jan 2022**

**Worship Sheet for Sunday 16 January Honour and generosity**

Jesus accompanied by his mother and his disciples attend a wedding at Cana and there he performs his first miracle – changing of water into wine. Mary encourages him to help but he does so without drawing attention to himself. We are told more than the guests at the wedding! It points to him being special but there are also lessons for us about honouring God and others and being generous too.

Call: Come as we gather to worship the God of surprises. Come as we gather to worship Jesus of miracles. Come as we gather to worship the Spirit of wonder. Come let us worship God.

Pray Extravagant God, we praise you for over the top grace shared freely and without favour. You are the God of abundant blessing, holding back no good thing. Ever-hospitable God, the storehouse of your love never runs dry. We taste and see your goodness, overflowing, spilling into our lives and the life of the world-love, grace, and mercy enough for all, and more besides. Generous God, forgive us when, in fear, we withhold your grace, worrying that there may not be enough to go around; or, when we judge that others may not be worthy of your blessing. Forgive us when, in self-interest, we share your grace with those ‘like us’ and those who like us, forgetting that all of humanity is our neighbour, and all are invited to your feast. Fill us anew with your Spirit of generosity, so that our lives overflow with your love; may we be vessels of blessing and messengers of mercy, pouring out your abundance on a thirsty world, in need of a taste of heaven’s wine. Open our hearts to soak up and share your generosity. We pray as Jesus taught: Our Father:

Reading John 2:1-11 The wedding at Cana.

Thought Jesus’ first miracle was at Cana in Galilee – at a wedding. But before we think about the miracle let’s acknowledge that Jesus, his mother and some of his disciples were guests at a wedding! They socialised, they did their bit to support the host. It isn’t wrong for Christians to mix with people (covid apart!) and to participate in family and community celebrations. In the past we’ve been thought of as being dour spoilsports. There is no need for that. For whatever reason the catering was out of sync – they were about to run out of wine. Mary asked Jesus to step in. Initially he was reluctant and told her that “My time has not yet come!” After what had happened to John it is hardly surprising that Jesus was cautious about attracting too much scrutiny from the authorities. But, under the radar, he helped out. He didn’t draw attention to himself and few people there knew he had but he honoured his host by helping out and he did so with great generosity. (Please don’t be put off by the alcohol. Many cultures can drink more responsibly than some Scots!). For John, the miracle pointed to the fact that Jesus was someone really special – that would be made more widely known later. For us, it is a reminder that we are to honour God without drawing attention to ourselves, honour our neighbours by helping them out without looking for praise or reward and point to God’s generosity in grace, love and forgiveness by being generous with our love and time. We need to let others see that we can share with them in their celebrations but also that we look for suitable opportunities to show our loving kindness towards them, generously and without looking for praise.

Praise CH4 336 Christ is our light.

Pray God of blessing, the trees are bare, winter holds us close to home, our Christmas lights are packed away. We look for signs of life, waiting for the snowdrop, the gentle lengthening of days, wondering when the sun will warm us. Yet even in the barrenness of winter, in your word we find hope: the promise of abundance like buds on trees. You teach us in the ebb and flow of seasons, that your life and love, flow in and through us to lift our spirits. We pray for all who struggle in the dark days of winter-who find it difficult to lift their heads, who find it hard to see any joy. So we bring before you all who live with illness of mind and spirit; all who feel alone, alienated, ashamed; all who see only darkness, whose glass feels empty. Pour in the light of your hope this day... We pray for all who hunger and thirst for justice, for peace, who find it difficult to be seen and heard, who find it hard to fight when society is so unequal. So we bring before you all who live with social stigma and bullying; all who experience the effects of poverty, all who have no place to call their own, whose lives make them scapegoats. Pour in the light of your hope this day.. We pray for all who long for life in all its fullness in the midst of illness or grief or jobs that grind them down-who find it difficult to keep going. So we bring before you all who live with feelings of anxiety or futility; all who wish they were well; all who wish that their depth of sadness were gone, whose season for celebration is overdue. Pour in the light of your hope this day... We pray for those we love, those we know, those often in our hearts and on our minds, and we offer to you our own needs... In our prayer walk we remember those in Panter and Renny Crescents. SILENCE. Pour in the light of your hope this day O God who in Jesus promises life in abundance. Amen. Blessing May the Lord bless you. Amen.

## Notices

- COVID update: we are being advised to take a lateral flow test prior to mixing with other households and therefore before attending worship. Please look after yourself but don't mix if you have symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive.
- Kirk Session by zoom on Monday 24 January at 7.15pm

To assist those unable to access material via the internet we have established a phone line where people can phone in to hear the mini service or sermon.

**01674 902624.**

To hear the mini service people just need to dial in and wait. To hear the sermon, after dialling you need to press 1 then #. In either case there is a few seconds delay while the message loads so tell folk not to hang up! If folk press 1 for the sermon before the intro finishes the system doesn't pick up on it and it defaults to the mini service. The message now says wait until after the tone before pressing 1 but give it a few seconds after that and do press # after pressing 1.

Sermon, prayers and news (or links to them) will be uploaded to our website [www.OLDandSTandrews.com](http://www.OLDandSTandrews.com) and the Old and St Andrew's Facebook page. Feel free to copy this and pass it on to Church members or friends who might not use the web or social media

**Please do still phone so that taking details for trace and protect doesn't cause a delay on entry. Face coverings are still required.**

**If you are thinking of coming please phone Thelma Robb 672263 or Willie Sinclair during the week prior to a particular Sunday on 675671 so that we have contact details for trace and protect.**

**Please continue to pray for one another and support where you can and remember that the congregation is united in love wherever we are and however we are worshipping.**

**Stay safe! May the Lord bless you!**

Ian

*Rev Dr Ian A McLean*