

Enduring Principles

#8 BLESSINGS OF COMMUNITY

(You will need two empty glasses, jug of water, flask of hot water, cup, tea bag, milk, and sugar if required, and a plate of biscuits to pass around)

WELCOME

Welcome, as we gather today, take a moment to think about the week behind you. Has it been busy, perfect, overwhelming, or are you carrying struggles that feel too heavy? Sometimes, giving our time, our love, and our care can feel like pouring from this empty glass. The truth is, we cannot pour from an empty glass. God calls us to be refilled, to receive care, to rest, so that when we pour into others, our blessings are then multiplied and shared in the community.

(Pour water into glass and overflow) (Ask volunteer to help)

Sometimes, when we pour ourselves out, our time, our love, our care, it can feel like this glass of water. Alone, it overflows, and much of it is lost. But watch what happens when another person steps in to help catch it...

(Add second glass to catch the water)

Suddenly, what seemed like wasted energy is shared, preserved, and can even refill someone else's cup. This is how blessings in community work. We are not meant to pour alone. God wants us to support one another, to catch each other's overflow, and to multiply the good we do.

Today, our worship relates to one of our enduring principles: Blessings of Community.

It is both receiving and giving we are blessed through kindness, encouragement we are blessed through the kindness, encouragement, and support of others, and we are called to be a source of blessing in return.

In the Community of Christ, blessings in community happen when:

We care for one another listening, encouraging, helping in times of need.

We celebrate together sharing joy, worship, and gratitude.

We serve together working for justice, peace, and healing in the wider world.

We nurture one another spiritually praying, studying scripture, and offering ministry in ways that help each other grow in faith.

how we support one another, catch each other's overflow, and allow God's love to flow through all of us.

Let us worship together.

HYMN

CCS 350 - We are a family of faith

OPENING PRAYER

God of love, we come as a community, not alone. Fill our cups with your Spirit, our hearts with compassion, and our lives with generosity. Let us receive your blessings so that we may pour them into the lives of others. Bless this time of worship, that we may each experience your love together and be strengthened to share it beyond these walls. Amen.

VIDEO

[Blessings of Community](#)

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 58:1-12

The Lord says, "Shout out! Shout as loudly as you can! Make as much noise as a trumpet makes! Tell my people that they have not obeyed me. Tell the family of Jacob about their sins.

Every day my people come to worship me. It seems that they want to know my ways. They seem like a nation of people who are doing the right things. They seem to obey the law of their God. They ask me to decide things fairly. Yes, they seem to want to be near to me.

They say to me, 'We have fasted to please you, but you do not see it. We make ourselves humble and you do not even look.'

Yes! While you are fasting, you are also quarrelling and you are fighting. You hit each other with your fists. If you want your prayers to reach me in heaven, you cannot continue to fast the way you do today.

The way that you fast does not please me at all: You make yourselves humble for a day. You bend down your head like weak grass. You lie down on sackcloth and ashes. Do you think that you are really fasting when you do that? Do you think that it pleases me, the Lord?

This is the way that I want you to fast: You must remove the chains from prisoners who should not be in prison; free people who are treated badly; break the ropes that bind people in unfair ways.

Share your food with the hungry. Bring the homeless poor into your house. If you see someone without clothes, give them clothes. Do not hide yourself from your own relatives in need. Then your light will shine like morning. Your healing will come quickly. Your good life will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will protect you.

You will call, and the Lord will answer. You will ask for help, and he will say, 'Here I am.' If you stop doing wrong things to others and stop saying evil,

If you give your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of those who are suffering, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your gloom will be like noon.

The Lord will guide you always. He will satisfy you in dry places and make your bones strong. You will be like a watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Your old ruins will be rebuilt. You will raise up the foundations of many generations. You will be called the people who repair broken walls and restore streets where people can live.

HYMN

CCS 327 - Weave

SERMON

Refilled to pour into the Community

Think about your week. The tasks, responsibilities, moments of care, moments of tension. Think about the community around you, the streets we walk, the shops we visit, the neighbours we greet, the people we may work or live with. Every act of kindness, every word of encouragement, every listening ear matters.

Yet often we carry an invisible weight: the burden of too much responsibility, expectations, and the mistakes of the past.

Isaiah 58 speaks directly into that tension. God addresses people who were performing religious acts faithfully, yet God looked deeper, into their hearts. The message is simple: God values love, compassion, and authenticity more than ritual or performance.

The people asked, *“Why have we fasted, and you do not see it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you do not notice?”*

God’s response is startling: fasting alone, acts alone, even prayers alone, if the heart is hardened, if justice is ignored, if the needy are overlooked, these are empty rituals.

Isaiah 58 challenges us to: Give with our hearts, serve with rest, speak with compassion

We are called to live a faith that flows outward from hearts nourished inwardly.

Some weeks, we walk into this space carrying lists of responsibilities, concerns, and expectations. Our minds rarely stop, always planning, managing, giving, fixing. Sometimes, the truth is we long to just sit quietly, receive ministry, recharge, and be restored.

Isaiah 58 reminds us that God sees what’s inside, not just what we do. That’s why it’s okay, in fact necessary to refill our own hearts before pouring into others.

In any community, words go unsaid, feelings left unspoken, people hurt. Isaiah 58 reminds us: while we cannot forget the past, we are called to move forward together toward healing, reconciliation, and hope.

Moving forward doesn’t erase what happened. It allows God’s light to guide us beyond the hurt. We do it together, supporting one another as we grow.

Then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.”

Even broken and painful parts of our lives can become channels for God’s light when we allow healing and ministry to enter.

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to release the chains of injustice, to share your food with the hungry, to welcome the oppressed?”

Faith must flow outward to: Release the chains of injustice, Feed the hungry, Shelter the homeless, and listen deeply with compassion

Even small acts matter, the smile we offer, the door we hold, the time we give, these are all living faith in action.

(Bring cup, teabag, pre-boiled water, plate of biscuits to the pulpit or table.)

Here's a truth we all need to remember we cannot pour from an empty cup.

(Place teabag in cup, pour hot water)

Just as this cup is being filled, we too must be nourished by God's presence, rest, and care. Isaiah 58:10 says, "Then your light will rise in the darkness." Only when our cup is full can our light shine, our justice flow, and our care reach others.

(Pause while tea steeps, inhale aroma)

Take a moment to imagine your own cup being filled, feel the warmth, the aroma, the pause. This is a mini rehearsal of God's invitation to you this coming week: to pause, receive ministry, and let God restore and strengthen you.

(Take a small sip yourself)

(Pick up plate of biscuits)

Sometimes replenishment comes in small, simple acts like sharing a biscuit.

Each biscuit represents a moment of refreshment and receiving from God.

As you take one, imagine God feeding your soul, offering patience, grace, and love.

Feel your heart being replenished, your strength renewed.

Receive ministry in this simple, tangible act.

(Pass biscuits to willing members or invite them to take one carefully)

Even one biscuit, one small pause, reminds us that receiving ministry is not selfish, it prepares us to serve fully, nourished, and ready.

Isaiah 58 teaches that when we are refilled, restored, and nurtured, we are ready to pour love, justice, and kindness into the world.

Isaiah 58:12 calls us to be: Repairers of the breach and Restorers of streets with dwellings

Every act of care, listening, encouragement, and compassion builds God's kingdom in our community. Even when the past has left stones in the river, God invites us to pour love over them, smooth the currents, and let life flow again.

After a long week, we all need a moment to be replenished. To sip, pause, and receive care not for a title, not for a role, but simply as beloved human beings in God's presence.

We are not only servants, but we are also beloved, replenished, and called to shine.

We will step back into the world with refilled cups, hearts restored, courage renewed, and hands ready to act.

Go boldly, love fiercely, receive generously, and pour God's light wherever you go.

(Raise cup for final sip, to bless everyone)

HYMN

CCS 273 - Draw the Circle Wide

VIDEO

[You Are Loved | Sermons | Community of Christ](#)

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Gracious God,
We lift our hearts to You in a world so often troubled,
where violence, fear, and injustice seem to overflow.

May Your peace flow through the communities of the earth,
touching every home, every street, every nation.

Teach us to be instruments of that peace—
to catch the overflow of pain with compassion,
to pour out hope where despair has settled,
and to share love where hatred seeks to divide.

Bless the leaders of nations with wisdom,
the peacemakers with courage,
and all of us with hearts that seek reconciliation.
Let Your light shine in places of darkness,
and may the blessings of community extend beyond our doors,
bringing healing, justice, and peace to the world.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray.
Amen.

HYMN

CCS 186 - LET US PRAYER FOR ONE ANOTHER

DISCIPLES GENEROUS RESPONSE**VIDEO**

[Open Doors | Sermons | Community of Christ](#)

Humberto Tinsman is the Emerging Generations Specialist and through this video he relates how his congregation turned a scary break-in into new opportunities to bless their neighbourhood with hope.

Humberto will also bless the offering in the video.

HYMN

CCS 609 - Take my Gifts and Let me Love You

(Take Offering)

CLOSING HYMN

CCS 651 – Send me Forth

SENDING FORTH

Our mission is to proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love, and peace. Sometimes it is easy to forget that joy is the first thing on that list, but today we have been reminded that blessings in community flow when we receive God's love, support one another, and share what we have. Go now, pour out your blessings, catch the overflow of others, and let God's light shine through all you do.