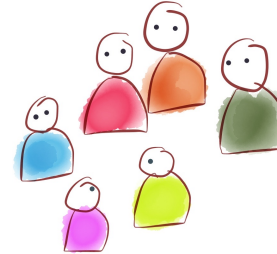


Beacon Hill & Fleet United Reformed Churches  
Nurture group Monday 20th February 2023 at 11am on Zoom

## Reflecting on our Jubilee - Reformed and Always Reforming



### Gathering Prayer

#### Hymn Come sing of our God

1. Come sing of our God who is always before us:  
calling and guiding us through the unknown.  
Come sing of our God who is always before us:  
harvesting fruit from the seeds long past sown.

2: Come sing of our God, who is always behind us:  
keeping a past we will never forget.  
Come sing of our God who is always behind us:  
holding with care all that we might regret.

3: Come sing of our God who is always beside us:  
Source of our hope in the plans that we make.  
Come sing of our God who is always beside us:  
Ground of our being: the Road that we take!

4: Come sing of our God who is always around us:  
On distant horizon, in quiet whispered word.  
Come sing of our God who is always around us:  
Lifting our lives with a song not yet heard.

### John 6:1-14

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

#### Reflection

#### Questions

- For historian David Cornick the great treasure of the URC is the ordinary folk whose contribution to the life of the church, like the boy's loaves and fishes, becomes a blessing to many. Who are the ordinary saints you have known?
- What resources do you have, and what ordinary things could you do with your congregation to make a difference in the lives of its members and your local community?

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### Isaiah 43: 18-19

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

### Isaiah 46: 8-11

Remember this and consider, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is no one like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My purpose shall stand, and I will fulfil my intention', calling a bird of prey from the east, the man for my purpose from a far country.  
I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass;  
I have planned, and I will do it.

#### Reflection

#### Questions

- What are the things we've done well over the last 50 years – as a denomination and in your local church?
- What are the things we need to let go of as they tie us down now
- What gives you hope for the future of our denomination?
- What gives you hope for your local congregation?

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#### Prayer

##### Gracious God

Your love has touched the URC and called forth disciples.

We give thanks for those who have been examples to us, who helped us on the journey of faith and opened windows into the wonder of your kingdom.

Take our loaves and fishes,

and transform them into your people's nourishment,

May your spirit open our ears to hear anew; open our eyes to see anew; open our hearts to follow you anew, setting down the human traditions that hold us back.

May your Word lead us on

that the world may know Christ as Lord

and return to You in praise and thanksgiving. Amen

