

The touch of Jesus changes everything and the broken bread satisfies them all. It is always like that. What you place in the hands of Jesus blesses others in the most remarkable of ways.

Broken box so the fragrance is poured out (*Mark 14:3*)

The cross looms on the horizon but for now it is time for a meal with Simon. Then the woman with her expensive alabaster jar of precious, fragrant ointment kneels at the feet of Jesus, breaks the box and anoints him in a moment of great devotion. She did what she could, with what she had and when she could do it. It was stunning, simply wonderful and the fragrance lingered in the air.

Broken body so the world can be redeemed (*1 Corinthians 11:24*)

So our attention is turned to Calvary and we come face to face with the One who longs to be our Saviour and Lord. Broken on the cross so that our sins can be forgiven, new life can be our experience. Everything broken in our lives can be renewed and made whole. So what will be our response? So hold the broken pieces of bread and the wine when we celebrate communion and remember.

Break the pitcher and let your light shine
Break the bread and be a blessing to others
Break the box let the fragrance of love and devotion fill the place.
See the broken body and yield yourself afresh to Him as Lord and Saviour
DPS

At this time, and considering all that is required for us to hold a service our decision is to continue to meet in the Main Hall.

Instructions issued 17th October 2020.

Quote: Communal worship or prayer can be attended by as many people as the place of worship can safely accommodate in a way that complies with COVID 19 secure guidance.

DO follow the mitigations that places of worship have put in place. It is easier and more efficient at the moment to comply with the requirements placed upon us. Our limit is 40 and 39 have been in attendance.

Please Note: Sunday 8th November the service will commence at 10:55am in order to hold the Act of Remembrance at 11 am

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Welcome to

CHURCH AT HOME

Sunday 1st November 2020

"BROKEN"

Read through this outline and join with everyone else at 11 am

HYMN MP 184 (to read or sing)

God is building a house,
God is building a house,
God is building a house that will stand.
He is building by His plan
With the living stones of man,
God is building a house that will stand.

God is building a house,
God is building a house,
God is building a house that will stand.
With apostles, prophets, pastors,
With evangelists and teachers,
God is building a house that will stand.

Christ is head of this house,
Christ is head of this house,
Christ is head of this house that will stand.
He abideth in its praise,
will perfect it in its ways
Christ is head of this house that will stand.

We are part of this house,
We are part of this house,
We are part of this house that will stand.
We are called from every nation
To enjoy His full salvation,
We are part of this house that will stand.

(It would be good if you said this prayer out aloud)

*O God it is so wonderful to know You never change
Enable us this morning to worship with a renewed sense
of realising Who You are and what You are doing.
The times are so difficult how we need You help
Your strength, Your favour, Your blessing.
As we sit here remind us of Your love
Help us to feel Your presence In Jesus' Name*

AMEN

You may like to say the Lord's prayer also.

**BIBLE VERSE FOR THE WEEK
1 Corinthians 11:24**

BROKEN

Broken -that's a word we all understand. At some time or another the word has assumed a significance and meaning all of its own. The child playing with the toy and despite all your efforts to fix it, you have to admit it is broken. You simply have to let it go and somehow find a replacement or alternative.

Broken. Think about it in terms of people and relationships. The pain of broken marriages that had started with such dreams and aspirations now discarded in the divorce courts. Broken friendships once so exhilarating, exciting, encouraging but what did we do or say or forget to do? Now they are just memories as we have gone our separate ways. So we feel sorry for ourselves, even complain about the wrongs done to us. Then what about the things in our lives that are broken so we blame God for the serious illness, the early loss of a loved one, the financial losses that have seemingly spoiled everything. and all kinds of other setbacks in our lives.

Broken churches because of differing perspectives on what we should do and how we should work and serve God. One of the biggest issues of my time has been about the style of worship - traditional or contemporary. So we became unfriendly, argumentative with each other. In just the same way the brokenness that came with our understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit. So we intensify and polarise a doctrinal stance like being reformed, following the puritan way. Or alternatively charismatic, Pentecostal style. The land is littered with broken relationships and broken churches.

What about the broken homes and families ? One of the saddest and most inexplicable pastoral situations I have ever had to deal with have been those encounters with seemingly sensible people who live in the same house yet because of something said or done they never speak to each other. Everything in that home and family is broken. Lives are powerless, inconsolable, irreconcilable, full of frustrations, disappointments, failure and sorrows.

Time and space does not allow me to try to describe the moral chaos and disruptive nature of our broken world. All I can mention is how broken we are because of the pandemic The lockdown that has broken our freedom to meet together, to worship and sing praises to our God. Now we are isolated, shut in our homes, regulated by so called "expert opinion" that has left us wondering when will it all end. All our plans and dreams for 2020 broken All I know is that through all this brokenness God's love is immeasurable, greater than anything we can ever imagine. He never lets go. He wants to take what is broken and renew, restore, revive whether it is people, situations or circumstances (see Jeremiah 29:11) *"I know the plans I have for you..."*

So when we ask *"Can anything good come out of what is broken?"* When the work has suddenly become so hard and that which we hoped for has not happened - what then? The Bible is full of great moments and words. They come like a trumpet call, that arrests and arouses something in our brokenness. Allow me to bring to your attention four differing moments when what was broken led to incredible blessing, favour and joy. If you would pursue them intentionally you will discover an answer for what is broken in us and with us

Broken pitchers so that the light could shine out (*Judges 7:18,19*)

The heartbreaking story of what the Midianites were doing to the people of God.. Gideon trying to thresh a meagre harvest in hiding and God called him to an amazing task. The army is assembled, the vast majority go home and Gideon sees the group whittled down to a mere 300. Then the plan, surround the enemy camp at night. The torch within the pitcher, the shout, the breaking of the pitcher. The enemy sees the light, run scared and the victory and deliverance is assured because the light shone!

Broken bread so the hungry have food (*Matthew 14:19*)

A small boy's lunch box of five small bread pieces and couple of bits of fish. A hungry crowd of thousands. Twelve disciples and the mighty Lord Jesus and everyone goes home well fed and blessed beyond words