**SWCD CHURCHES DECEMBER 2021 – FEBRUARY 2022 SERVICES lead & preach**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date (Sundays)** | **(Theme &) Bible Readings** | **Questions** |
| **9th January** | **God centred**  Exodus 20. 1 – 17  Matthew 22. 34 - 40 | *Read Exodus 20. 1 – 17*  What might being God centred mean for us as a) individuals b) the church?  Can you give examples of ‘other gods’ that verse 2 mentions?  How do the rest of the 10 Commandments help us to keep a God-Centred focus?  Is there anything in the Exodus verses that you struggle with? Discuss.  *Read Matthew 22. 34 – 40*  What lies behind the Pharisee’s question to Jesus?  Re-read verse 37 – 38 and use as a springboard for prayer. |
| **16th January** | **Jesus focused**  Philippians 2. 5 – 11  Matthew 3. 13 - 17 | *Read Philippians 2. 1 – 11*  How does Paul describe Jesus?  Are there particular words or phrases that resonate with you in these verses and why?  What might Paul mean when he says ‘have the same mindset as Christ Jesus’ in verse 5?  Discuss some of the ways in which we can remain Jesus focused in our daily lives?  What might hinder this focus?  Can you recall a verse from the bible, a hymn or song that has helped to draw you into the worship of Jesus?  Choose one of the verses in the reading and silently read it through, asking God to speak to you and move into a time of prayer. |
| **23rd January** | **Spirit filled**  1 Corinthians 12. 4 – 14  John 20. 19 – 23 | *Read 1 Corinthians 12. 4 – 14*  Discuss the different spiritual gifts.  Why are spiritual gifts given?  What might being filled with the Spirit look like? What qualities might you see in your life? In someone else’s?  Sometimes, people are afraid of spiritual gifts, why might this be?  How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit?  What might the marks of a spirit filled church be?  Re-read verse 14 and use this as a springboard for prayer. |
| **30th January** | **People powered**  Nehemiah 3. 1 – 12  Luke 10.1 – 12 | *Read Luke 10. 1 – 12*  Why did Jesus send his disciples out on mission?  How might the disciples have felt?  How might we feel about being sent out on mission?  What ‘things’ might get in the way of our being sent out?  How might we do mission as a church?  Re-read the passage and notice which verse or word jumps out at you and share this with the rest of the group. |
| **6th February** | **Generous hearted**  2 Corinthians 9. 4 – 11  Mark 12. 41 – 44 | *Read 2 Corinthians 9. 4 – 11 & Mark 12. 41 – 44*  Both Paul, in Corinthians and Jesus in Mark (and throughout the Gospels) talk about giving – why might we struggle to talk about this area of the Christian discipleship?  What does Paul mean by being ‘a cheerful giver’?  What is significant about Jesus’ teaching on giving in the example he uses?  What can we personally learn from the widow’s offering?  After reading these 2 passages, what might you say to a church member who believes the church should not be talking about money and giving?  Prayerfully consider what God might be saying to you about the way you manage and use your finances. |
| **13th February** | **Radically different**  2 Corinthians 6. 1 – 10  Luke 19. 1 – 10 | *Read Luke 19. 1 – 10*  Who are the modern equivalents to Zacchaeus in our society (people who are often ostracized or marginalised)?  Why do you think Jesus chose to focus on Zacchaeus rather than anyone else in the crowd that day?  What lay behind the changes that Zacchaeus promised to make?  What practically should we in the church be doing to reach out to those people we identified in question one? And why might this prove difficult?  In a time of prayer, ask God to show changes that you need to make to become radically different. |
| **20th February** | **Prayerfully rooted**  Colossians 1. 3 – 14  Matthew 6. 5 – 14 | *Read Matthew 6. 5 – 14 & Colossians 1. 3 – 14*  From the Gospel reading, describe the ways in which Jesus urges us to pray.  Why do we sometimes struggle to pray?  What might it mean to ‘pray continually’?  How would you respond to someone who says that they don’t pray because God isn’t listening?  How can we become more prayerfully rooted?  Prayer has been described as listening to God. Given that so much of our prayer seems to be talking, what practical steps might we take to readdress the balance  Spend some moments in quiet as a group, wait on God, listen and pray. |
| **27th February** | **The hope of the world**  Micah 5. 2 - 5  Mark 1. 14 – 20 | *Read Mark 1. 14 – 20*  With the group, share how were you called to follow Jesus?  We have Good News to share, how might we do this in our community?  The local church was once described by a Christian author as the ‘hope of the world’. Discuss some of the ways in which we as the church could bring hope to others.  Whose job should it be to call new disciples?  Pray for the harvest. |