

Sunday 19 July 2009

- **Introductory prayer**
- **Story used in sermon**
- **Pastoral Prayer to conclude the sermon, based on Ephesians 2: 11 – 18**

[There are no sermon notes]

Nic Denny-Dimitriou

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**Lord Jesus, you break bread,  
and with the pieces you feed multitudes.**

**Lord Jesus, you break the powers of sin and death,  
and with the pieces you build the household of God.**

**Lord Jesus, you break walls,  
and with the pieces you build bridges of forgiveness.**

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A little girl in came home from school and shared the news with her mother that a girl from another country had joined their class.

She didn't speak English, so despite the efforts of some of the children at break, the new girl had not joined in any games but had only watched the others play and talk.

The next day she excitedly told her mother how they had had such fun at lunchtime – and the new girl had been included in their games.

The mother was puzzled. "But how can that be" she asked her daughter, "when the new girl doesn't yet speak the same language as you?"

The little girl replied, "It was easy, because she laughed in the same language as us!"

Pastoral Prayer (based on Ephesians 2: 11-18)

[Don Hoffman – adapted by Nic]

God of the open spaces;
God of the whirling galaxies in their billions;
God of the wide oceans;
God of the spacious veld;
God of fields and forests and untracked wilderness;
we, your little, frightened, wall-building people,
come before you today.

For a few minutes we've left our walls behind, dear God,
but we will be glad to get back to them.
Sheltered from the heat and cold.
Protected from exposure to our fellow human beings.
Keeping all our secrets safe from prying eyes.

We are afraid to be too exposed.
We are afraid to be too transparent.
We are afraid to be too well known,
by people who might take advantage of us:
burglars and politicians and in-laws.
People who want to steal what's ours;
people who want to borrow what's ours;
people who might notice that what we have really belongs to them.

God of all openness,
if you will protect us,
we will come out from behind our walls.
If you will provide us with the right sunblock,
we will risk the heat of your gaze.
If you will show us how to live the way Jesus lived,
we will even allow you to tear our walls down,
and build us together into a dwelling place for you.

Use the rubble from our walls to build bridges, Lord.
Use the rubble from our walls to build a temple of beauty.
Use the rubble from our walls to build the City of God.
Use the rubble from our walls ... to create heaven.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who has become our peace, who gives
everyone the same access through the one Spirit to God our Father,
who makes us all fellow citizens, through him we pray, Amen.