

WEEK FIVE – Sunday 30 August 2020:

This week's video is around a participant's positive experience of welcome and inclusion at Rostrevor Baptist Church and the way they have not only accepted her disability but celebrated her giftedness.

Prayer:

Holy Spirit,

Thank you that you are always speaking to us,

leading us,

encouraging us,

and inviting us in how we can partner with you in the world.

We thank you for the gifts within us you have revealed to us,

and for those that yet lay hidden.

Holy Spirit please fill each of us with the courage to share our God-given gifts with the World.

Father God please help us to see the hidden gifts in others and call them into being.

Jesus please help us to love our brothers and sisters as ourselves and to be open to all we can learn about you from others.

Trinitarian God, we praise you for the way that we are each fearfully and wonderfully made.

May we celebrate, honour, make room for and welcome each person as we welcome you.

Would you use the offering of our gifts to the world around us to cast bright light into the darkness.

Amen

Suggested Bible reading:

Romans 12:3-8 “³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgement, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”

Questions for reflection:

- Where do we see the Kingdom of God at work in the story?
- What inspired you in the story?
- What challenges us?