**Theme – Holy Habit … Gladness and Generosity**

The Book of Acts gives us ten clear instructions of how to become stronger and more faithful disciples. These are called ‘**Holy Habits**’ and they assist us in deepening our discipleship. Today we shall explore the eighth Holy Habit, **Gladness and Generosity**.

**Call to worship** *Psalm 100*

**Hymn** **RS 96** *Great is thy faithfulness*

**Opening prayers**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Readings** *Acts 2:37-47*

**‘Holy Habits *Gladness*** *is to be practised*

**Hymn**

 In water we grow,
 secure in the womb,
 and speechlessly know
 love's safety and room.
 Baptizing and blessing
 we publish for good
 the freeing, caressing
 safe keeping of God.

 In water we wash:
 the dirt of each day,

 its trouble and rush
 are carried away.
 In Christ re-created
 by love's cleansing art,
 self-will and self-hatred
 dissolve and depart.

 In water we dive,
 and cannot draw breath,
 then surface alive,
 rebounding from death.
 Our old self goes under,
 in Christ dead and drowned.
 We rise, washed in wonder,
 by love clad and crowned.

 In water we dwell,
 for by its deep flow
 through bloodstream and cell,
 we live, think, and grow.
 Praise God, love outflowing,
 whose well of new birth
 baptizes our knowing,
 and waters the earth. Brian Wren (born 1936)
 © 1993 Stainer & Bell Ltd
 Tune Laudete Dominum (Parry) RS 293 Ye servants of God

**Offertory**

**Reading** *Galatians 5* **(Good as new version)**

**‘Holy Habit’ *Generosity*** *of Spirit*

**Music** *Just as I am Fernando Ortega*

**Hymn**

Lord, whose wealth is all around us,
 though your promises astound us
 and your challenges dumbfound us,
 you remain as kind and true.

 We go after earthly treasure,
 worldly goods and passing pleasure;
 but the good beyond all measure
 is the wealth we have with you.

 Though our feeble faith still wavers
 and earth's idols still enslave us,

 you stay faithful and will save us
 from the false hopes we pursue.

 So, Lord, when we're in a flurry,
 when we rush about and scurry,
 chasing riches, full of worry,
 make us calm, at peace with you.

 In the confidence that faith brings,
 full of hope and joy, the heart sings;
 you are faithful, Lord, in all things:
 come and make us faithful too. Alan Gaunt (born 1935)
 © Stainer & Bell Ltd
 Quem Pastores (8887 )Jesus good above all others

**Prayers of Intercession**

**RS 308 and 309** *Spirit of the Living God*

**Hymn RS 740** *Tell out my soul**the greatness of the Lord*

**Closing Prayer**

God meet us**,**

 **in the gladness of our hearts**

God meet us**,**

**the generosity of your Spirit**

God meet us**,**

**in the Holy moments that come before us**

**Closing Blessing**



**8. Gladness and Generosity**

