*Breaking Bread Wk 9*

*Hello everyone,
        We finished last week’s email with the thought that through Christ’s brokenness, we might be made whole in ourselves. The point is that it is our Lord Jesus Christ who is the focal point of this because of his willingness to be sacrificed and broken on the Cross. Jesus is the Bread of Life, broken in every way, so that we might be healed from our sin and waywardness, all of which threaten to tear us apart.
        This week’s reading from the lectionary reinforces the point. It’s 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, in which Paul declares that “if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation, the old has passed away, and look, all things are made new.” (5:17).
         The key to this is our being “in Christ” which is a common phrase in Paul’s writing. If we are in Christ, then in him we put to death the old life, and in him, we rise to a new, full and whole life. Where Christ goes, first to the Cross, and then in being raised, so do we because we are “in Christ “.

           But this isn’t just for us as individuals, but also for us as communities, families, groups, churches and nations....... indeed for the whole world and for creation itself.
           “In Christ” we have been reconciled to God, from whom previously we had been separated by sin. Now, Paul says, as new creations, we have been entrusted with the vital message of reconciliation, and that message needs to be given through our being in whole and complete relationships ourselves, and also through our words of love. We are to be ministers of reconciliation for the world, anticipating God’s future kingdom when eventually all things will be held in unity in and through Christ.
             That’s a big challenge, but thankfully we are “in Christ” and when we are, then all things become possible.

              At Holy Communion, we can now see the close link between the Breaking of the Bread and the Sharing of the Peace. They are both deeply meaningful actions, complementing each other and they are a sacrament of all that God has done and is doing in the world through our Lord Jesus Christ. It is through his brokenness that we are made whole, both in ourselves, and together as a community....... true peace.

            God bless,
                 Graham*

 *Produced by Graham Wassell on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John Wilkins).  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*