

twelvebaskets



ORDINARY 14C

A complete Sunday service ready to use
for worship and inspire ideas in your church

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Ordinary 14 - Year C
3rd July 2022



Order of Service

Call to worship

Hymn:

401 STF – Come, sinners, to the gospel feast OR

462 STF – Come with me, come wander

Opening Prayers

All Age Talk

Hymn:

404 STF – God’s spirit is in my heart OR

596 STF – Now let us from this table rise

Readings: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Hymn:

367 STF – When I was lost, you came and rescued me OR

416 STF – There’s a wideness in God’s mercy

Reflections on the readings

Hymn:

STF 699 – God of Justice OR

STF 693 – Beauty for Brokenness

Intercessions

The Lord’s Prayer

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

Hymn:

462 STF – Come with me, come wander OR

239 STF – Sent by the Lord am I

Blessing

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Call to worship

Living God

As I come to connect with you in worship today I hold a moment or two of silence

To gather my thoughts and feelings so that I might bring them to you

To pay attention to the sounds, sights and smells that surround me and know that they interest you

To consider all that might be required of me and willingly come to you

All this I offer as we meet today

Amen.¹

Hymn:

401 STF – Come, sinners, to the gospel feast OR

462 STF – Come with me, come wander

Opening Prayers

The Harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Who shall answer the call?

I shall answer the call to work the harvest field.

The Lord says “Peace to this House.”

Peace be upon you as peace is upon us, the harvest workers.

We welcome all those who are gathered, be you here physically, virtually or joining in spirit.

We welcome you here in this place.

And what do we say to those gathered here?

The Kingdom of God has come near to you.

Amen.²

All Age Talk

When you think about God – where do you think God is?

[Ask people to reflect, to shout out different answers].

There are no right or wrong answers there, and for many centuries we have thought about God as distant – as somehow ‘in the sky’ or you hear expressions like ‘God is in his heaven’. Perhaps you picture something like the Monty Python and the Holy Grail kind of God – where the clouds part and a large man in a white beard shouts down from the sky...

Certainly there are parts of the Bible that encourage us to think of God as large, as Creator, as majestic – and probably even a little bit scary. Lots of the Old Testament paints a picture

¹ Call to Worship written by Jane Bingham

² Opening prayers written by Tim Annan

of a distant Creator, who was walking in the Garden of Eden in the beginning, but then withdrew to the skies and only appeared every now and then.

However, the Christian Church exists to celebrate and remind us that God has come close. That is what the Jesus stories are for – they are stories about God’s desire to be with us, to be like us, to walk amongst us, to go through difficult times like us, to have friends like us, and to love one another like us.

Later on in our service, in our Gospel reading, we will hear one of the many times when Jesus says ‘the Kingdom of God has come near’. It is one of his great themes, one of the things he is repeating all the time – that in him, God is close.

So this week, in all that you might be going through, in any challenges you might face, in all your relationships, conversations, actions and playing – God is close. Let’s not worry so much. Let’s not feel so alone. Let’s not get carried away by all the negativity of the world. Our God is close. God has come to be with us, and God is here to stay. Can we listen for God’s voice? Can we show God’s love to all the people we meet?

Let it be so for me, and let it be so for all of us.

In Jesus’ name.

Amen.³

Hymn:

404 STF – God’s spirit is in my heart OR

596 STF – Now let us from this table rise

Readings: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Hymn:

367 STF – When I was lost, you came and rescued me OR

416 STF – There’s a wideness in God’s mercy

Reflections on the reading

“It was nevertheless considered part of a Jedi’s responsibility to train the next generation of the Order. Apprentices would often go on missions with their masters.”⁴

“Is not this the carpenter’s son?” – Matthew 13:55

“Jesus said to them,

“Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own,

but only what he sees the Father doing;

for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise.” – John 5:19

³ All Age Talk written by Tim Baker

⁴ <https://starwars.fandom.com/wiki/Padawan>

Joseph, Jesus, and even Jedis from the *Star Wars* franchise have all been apprentices. Who has nurtured you? We can spend a moment or two bringing those people to mind and thanking God for them.

In this week's Gospel reading, we learn about the apprenticeship of those first disciples of Jesus.

- How might their experience inform us as disciples, pupils, apprentices of Jesus today?
- How might we seek to nurture and apprentice others as the mission of proclaiming the kingdom of God is passed from generation to generation?

There have been people following Jesus since his ministry began after his baptism. People listening, observing, and taking in what he said and did. In the verses preceding this week's reading, the followers have seen Jesus demonstrating how he went about his mission of proclaiming the kingdom of God. Now, Jesus commissions them to go and to continue his ministry of proclaiming the kingdom of God. He gives them final instructions about what to take with them, what to say, what they should focus on... They go... Then they return to report back and receive a debrief from Jesus. After being nurtured, after learning, the disciples are sent out on mission. Do you think the balance is right in the discipleship of your church between nurturing existing followers and going out to proclaim the kingdom of God?

Jesus sends out 70 (in the Hebrew Bible) or 72 (in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) of his followers ahead of him as they journey towards Jerusalem. Within the Jewish tradition, the number seventy was used to signify the number of nations of the earth based on Genesis chapter 10. Like those of us who tune in to see who gets fired at the end of the BBC television show *The Apprentice*, perhaps the author of Luke's gospel liked a bit of anticipation too – the sending of the seventy can be seen as an anticipation of the time when the Church would go to proclaim the kingdom of God to all the nations of earth. For the author of this week's Vine reflection, there are also sadly things to repent about how some of that mission has been carried by the Church in the name of Christendom and earthly empires, to the devastation of Indigenous cultures... Jesus however is clear about what an initial evangelistic or missional approach should look and sound like:

"Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!'" – Luke 10:5

The offering of peace as a greeting is part of the Jewish tradition yet, if the offer of peace is received and accepted, then such a greeting also becomes a sign that the blessings of the kingdom of God – love, justice, and peace – are also manifested here.

A child of peace has been found and the mission of proclaiming the kingdom of God now moves from the individual to the family as:

"The house where a son of peace has been found is to become a stable base of operations for the messenger. He is to be sustained there as one of the household. He is to receive this provision as God's payment to his harvest worker."

Thinking of opportunities today for offering peace and receiving hospitality as manifestations of the kingdom of God, I wonder what the experience has been within your church community of welcoming those fleeing the invasion and war in Ukraine?

Families I have spoken to who are hosting Ukrainian guests talk about a gratitude for a place of sanctuary as well being blessed in return by the presence of their guests as part of their family.

From individual to the family, the focus for mission then broadens again to encompass the whole community.

- What is your church's sense of mission to the wider community beyond the church family or building?
- Are there signs of God's kingdom you can notice beyond the church? If so, how might you and your church join in with these aspects of God's mission?

Jesus makes it clear to all who would follow him that continuing his mission of proclaiming the kingdom of God is not always going to be easy or well received. Are there areas of your church's current mission where perhaps it feels like wet, heavy dust clinging to your feet – weighing and slowing you down? Is it appropriate to wipe the dust off and move on? If we are feeling tired and weighed down in our mission, then the reading from Isaiah 66:10-14 offers us a prayer and a promise of joy, comfort, nourishment, and sustenance as we seek to faithfully continue the ministry of Christ.

“Lord, in your name even...” – Luke 10:17-18

In all things, may we remember that mission of proclaiming the kingdom of God is not ours. It is Christ's. We are workers in the field to whom Jesus says, “You're hired!” Never fired (apart from by a heart strangely warmed). So, may we go in the name of the Lord to be bearers of peace and – one child of peace, one family, one community at a time – love shall continue to grow as people are re-membered into God's family as citizens of God's kin-dom community.

Amen.⁵

Hymn:

STF 699 – God of Justice OR

STF 693 – Beauty for Brokenness

Prayers of intercession

Grace to you and Grace to us as we are gathered here this day.

We are here, a part of this world, and see the beauty and the harm that has happened in this past week.

We see the images of families displaced by war, hunger, or the dream of a better life. The people who wait for their food from the FoodBank, the parents who skip meals to feed their children. The houses we walk past in the streets that don't heat their houses for the fear of the bill to follow. The worries that we have and share, and those that we don't...

(Pause)

...We bring them all to you God.

⁵ Reflection written by James Morley

By Grace we are also given life. And life, is for living. We give thanks for this week that's gone, for the moments that gave us joy, the moments that filled our hearts. Give thanks for the laughter we shared, the excitement we felt. And we offer the moments of life affirming joy that are on our hearts and minds to you Lord, and for the moments we look forward to this week.

(Pause)

All these things, and more, we bring to you God, with the words taught to us by your Son.

Amen.⁶

We say together the Lord's Prayer

We will now take up the offering.

Blessing the offering

We each have much to give, Lord God, help us to recognise our gifts and use them for your glory.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.⁷

Hymn:

462 STF – Come with me, come wander OR

239 STF – Sent by the Lord am I

Blessing

Go in peace, transformed by God's Spirit within you, to hear the call and respond simply: 'here I am, send me'.

Amen.⁸

⁶ Prayers of intercession by Tim Annan

⁷ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

⁸ Additional prayers by Tim Baker