



ORDINARY 19C

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

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C
10th August 2025



Order of Service

Call to worship

Hymn:

43 STF – Come, let us praise the Lord OR

183 STF – Praise to the God who clears the way

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

Hymn:

455 STF – All my hope on God is founded OR

79 STF – I'll praise my Maker while I've breath

Readings: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Hymn:

55 STF – Immortal, invisible, God only wise OR

732 STF – Day of judgment! Day of wonder!

Reflections on the readings

Hymn:

559 STF – Lord, you have my heart OR

254 STF – Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

Hymn:

415 STF – The Church of Christ, in every age OR

713 STF – Show me how to stand for justice

Blessing

The Vine Services are compiled and produced by twelvebaskets.

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Call to worship

Gracious God,
We come to you in this time of worship.
Move in our midst, open our hearts, reveal your nature to us, we pray.
Amen.¹

Hymn:

43 STF – Come, let us praise the Lord OR
183 STF – Praise to the God who clears the way

Opening Prayers

Faithful God,
Let us give thanks unto the Lord for you are good.
You wrote our story of faith into existence.
Why do we turn to empty rituals,
To empty promises and to empty lives?
When we have you to help cast our eyes to fulfilment
To love-filled promises.
To fuller lives.
When in the prosperity of your almighty kingdom our lives are meaningful.
You wrap your heart around what is broken and hopeless,
And give promise of hope in the fullest in your almighty Kingdom.
Help us to see the impact of what putting our trust in you will do when we turn away from
empty rituals.
We thank you for your undying love.
For giving us a new chance each day to live our lives in your image as is our purpose.
God, we pray for a genuine unwavering faith and obedience to you over the emptiness of
the rituals that tempt us in our everyday lives.
Let us give thanks unto the Lord for God is good.
Let us walk and follow on faith alone as we have seen others do so before us.
You are our breaker of chains, rescuer, righteous seeker, promise keeper.
In our weakness you make us strong.
The finisher of our story of faith.
We open our hearts and put our trust in you.
Amen.²

¹ Call to worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Alice Arbon-Maher

We say together the Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

Lets start with a famous quote from this week's gospel reading: "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

What do you class as your treasures in life? You may think of your memories, time spent with family or friends, you might think about a gift you received for your birthday/Christmas that you cherish, maybe it's something that you worked hard to pay for. When you treasure something you often want to protect it, hold it close to you, maybe you want to hide it away so no one steals it or damages it.

When we think of treasure we often think of Pirates hiding boxes of treasure so that it can't be stolen, and then drawing a map so they can find it again.

God tells us that our heart will always be where our treasure is, the place where we focus our energy and our spirit. So then he warns us, that our treasures on Earth will not make the journey to heaven with us, therefore we should be focussed on treasures of the spirit, gifts that God has given us. God has given us gifts in abundance, we can start with the gift of life, and the gift of creation. We could look at the fruit of the Spirit and focus on the treasures of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

We could spend time recognising in ourselves the individual gifts that God has given us that make us who we are. Whether it be a gift for preaching the word, for pastoral care of others, for prayer, for witness, for service.

What can we see is the benefit of these treasures rather than earthly treasures?

The treasures mentioned all both glorify God, but they also benefit other people.

Jesus tells us that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" where do you want your heart to be? Wrapped up in earthly possessions that will one day be defunct, or wrapped up in glorifying God, helping others, wrapped in joy, love and peace?³

Hymn:

455 STF – All my hope on God is founded OR

79 STF – I'll praise my Maker while I've breath

Readings: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Hymn:

55 STF – Immortal, invisible, God only wise OR

732 STF – Day of judgment! Day of wonder!

³ All Age Talk written by Pippa Lupton

Reflections on the readings

Luke begins this passage with the phrase 'Don't be afraid' - words we hear again and again throughout the gospels.

Maybe Jesus knows his followers too well, and understands that actually in life there is much to be anxious about. Indeed, this section follows Jesus's advice not to worry about food or clothing but to strive for God's Kingdom above all. Often we can dismiss the real concerns of others too quickly, telling them not to worry, or that things will be alright. Sometimes it is easier to assure others than to convince ourselves. But here Jesus is telling his disciples not to worry because God has their best interests at heart. Jesus is asking his disciples to respond to God's generous love, and to be ready to encounter God at any moment. How are they going to do that if they are pre-occupied or distracted, worn down by worry, anxious about the future?

With these words, Luke seeks to tell his readers that they should be ready to be surprised by the generosity of God, the God who wants to lavish them with the gifts of the Kingdom. In order to receive these gifts, Jesus is asking his followers to discern what is important and to prioritise it without getting distracted.

So, let's look at what our priorities might be here and now? They will be different for each one of us, depending on our circumstances and our context, but let's also with humility recognise our own limitations. God is beyond our anxious human declarations of 'that's not possible' or 'how could we possibly make a difference' or even 'that's someone else's responsibility' – all thoughts or words we might utter in the face of challenge and change. However, God doesn't ask us to do anything in our own strength or relying on our own good ideas – God partners with God's people as they seek in prayer and the examination of scripture to partner with God, to seek God's heart for us and for all people and to respond.

God's desire is for us to receive God's gift of the Kingdom, and Kingdom values – freedom for those held back by injustice and inequality, where those ignored are listened to, where those who are troubled experience deep peace, where those who are grieving or in pain find solace and comfort. So if this is what God is ready to gift God's people, then what is it that God requires of us?

Micah 6 instructs us to do justice, love, kindness and walk humbly with God. Mark 12 asks us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. In both of the passages above we can see what it is we need to do is simply set out. As we seek to love God and love others we need to incorporate justice and mercy into our living and serving. In doing this we demonstrate our desire for all people to fulfil their potential.

In our praying and in our action we are required to think beyond ourselves and notice where in the wider world, as well as our immediate neighbours, others might flourish and recognise their worth, as children of the God who loves them. 'It is our father's good pleasure for you to receive the Kingdom' - life in all its fullness, gift and grace. I was recently reading an article that Roger Walton wrote in 2018, addressing some words of John Wesley 'Go not to those who want you, but those who want you most.' (Go to those who want you most – Theology Everywhere). Like Walton I had also wrongly imagined that Wesley had used the word need instead of want, and that in my life and ministry tried to allocate time based on need. I feel that this might be a human response but it does require a level of discernment and wide knowledge to be able to assess both the needs of others and the capacity to know if and how we should respond. Sometimes there are others who are better placed and better resourced to be able to make a difference and this is why churches which seek to build relationships and seek partnerships in local communities can

find this hugely beneficial and find that the Kingdom values that we long to see can be seen when we let go of our desire to control and own projects or pieces of work. The Methodist Church are beginning to embed 'Faith Based Community Organising' as a way of enabling us to respond well to issues in our neighbourhoods – you can find more by searching the Methodist Church's website for Faith-Rooted Community Organising – where there are also opportunities for training and development which are open to all.

So as we go into a new week sustained by worshipping our generous God together:

- What are the distractions, concerns or worries we are carrying where we would like to hear God speak 'Do not be afraid'?
- What might it mean to readjust our understanding that 'being ready for God' might not be about fear or judgement but being ready to be received by a God who delights to feed and serve us?
- What could partnership working (on a small or large scale) look like for your church and your community, that blessed by co-working with God we might see seeds, shoots and the fruits of the Kingdom here on earth?

Amen.⁴

Hymn:

559 STF – Lord, you have my heart OR

254 STF – Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Prayers of intercession

Generous God,

You love to prepare space for us, to welcome us at the banqueting table, to feed us and sustain us with your presence and promises.

And so we come with our prayers for others and for your world. Even where to start with our stumbling words can make us anxious or overwhelmed, who will we leave out, who are we not even aware of, who have we overlooked or forgotten?

And yet, the words of Jesus are so often, do not be afraid and peace be with you.

So let us let go of our fear, receive your peace and come to you in confidence knowing you are always ready to listen.

We pray for all who are caught up in regimes and wars where your precious children live in fear of their lives, who have left places of safety to seek sanctuary and those who are hungry, thirsty and in need of medical aid or supplies.

Show us in our praying and our living to co-work with you to bring about your Kingdom of justice, love and peace.

In giving thanks for the beauty of the created world, we lament our exploitation of the earth. We pray for those who are most vulnerable to the effects of increased droughts and floods, whose homes and communities are at risk and whose livelihoods are fragile.

Show us in our praying and our living to co-work with you to bring about your Kingdom of justice, love and peace.

We pray for your church, across the world and for our own church community. We pray that we would follow Jesus so closely and to trust him so completely, that we would listen

⁴ Prayers of intercession written by Christine Dutton

and be guided by him, in order to devote our lives to serve God – loving others as we love ourselves.

Show us in our praying and our living to co-work with you to bring about your Kingdom of justice, love and peace.

We pray for those we love and care for, we remember especially those who are ill or frail at home or in hospital, we pray for those who are anxious and fearful for today or tomorrow, for those who are living with loss and navigating grief.

Show us in our praying and our living to co-work with you to bring about your Kingdom of justice, love and peace.

And we pray for ourselves, for all the week ahead will hold for us. May we know your love and peace that we may live our discipleship in the strength of Christ and in the power of the life-giving Holy Spirit.

Amen.⁵

We will now take up the offering.

God of all grace, and all gift,

Thank you for all that you have given us in this world.

We come to you now, grateful and open-handed.

Come into our presence we pray, and bless these gifts that they might be tools of justice and peace in the world,

Amen.⁶

Hymn:

415 STF – The Church of Christ, in every age OR

713 STF – Show me how to stand for justice

Blessing

May you go to find the light shining in the darkness,

May you go to find love overcoming hatred,

May you go to find life shining through everywhere,

And may you come to see what is yours to do, in Christ's name we pray,

Amen.⁷

⁵ Prayers of intercession written by Christine Dutton

⁶ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

⁷ Additional prayers by Tim Baker