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ORDINARY 5C

6th February 2022

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Centreing Prayers

God is everywhere
In this space and all spaces
In this time and all times
God is waiting to meet you and is ready to welcome you
Just as it has been for all eternity.

So be still

Pause

Get ready to notice the spirit working
Through words on the page
Through sounds around you
Through familiar and unfamiliar smells
Through all that you see when you look up from what you are reading
Through the touch of your hands as you hold them together to pray

So be still

Pause

If you feel able speak aloud the following words

**God of all time and space I notice you here
I am ready
Amen**

Hymn:

673 STF – Will you come and follow me? - [YouTube](#)

You may now wish to say The Lord's Prayer in a version most familiar or comfortable to you.

Readings: [Isaiah 6:1-8](#)

Responding to the reading

Has there been a moment in your life when, suddenly, everything changed?
Perhaps it was a good thing. Perhaps it was a bad thing. Perhaps it was a bit of a strange mixture of both?

On this date, 6th February 1952, Queen Elizabeth II (our current queen) found out that she was the new Queen of England. That would have been a bit of a surprise, not least because she was sitting in a treehouse in Kenya at the time! Whilst she would have expected to become Queen one day, no doubt this moment was a major one in her life story, and she has never quite been the same after it.

Perhaps you actually remember that happening, or perhaps you've more recently

connected with this moment in The Crown's depiction of it as part of the much-acclaimed Netflix series. There are lots of parties and celebrations planned for this year to celebrate 70 years since the Queen came to the throne, though most of them are focused later in the year, to coincide with the anniversary of her coronation.

For today, however, I'm inviting you to think about your own life, and the moments where this might have happened to you. Maybe you haven't been made monarch of a nation in a moment, but perhaps you've had moments where everything has changed.

When you've found out what school you are going to.

When you've moved house.

When you've had to say goodbye to a relative or friend forever.

When you've got a promotion, or said 'yes' to a new opportunity.

These moments can be unsettling, and they can change how we interact with the world. But they can also be exciting, and create new opportunities for us to grow and flourish.

What about your walk of faith? Do you have a moment, or a series of moments, that you can look back at where you see God at work? Where you sensed an encounter with the divine? How are you enabling those moments to shape and change you?

The Old Testament reading today gives us the well-known, evocative description of Isaiah's call. If the sensory assault that Isaiah describes was set in a movie scene it would be well suited to the elaborate and vivid direction of filmmaker Ken Russell – it is dramatic, it is big, it is loud, it is powerful... and in some ways it makes us feel inadequate. We may think of our own experiences and feel that they are much less grand and significant than this, and then somehow feel that we haven't done it right, or that our experience was less valid. Isaiah's vision was right for him, and he described it in a way that was right for him, and whatever our experiences are, they are right for us. Sometimes the call we feel may be just as dramatic as his, but sometimes it is much more subtle – perhaps that nauseous feeling in our gut as we ruminate on the challenges before us.

All are valid. God is calling us, even today, even now...

The real lesson for us is in the response Isaiah makes. If we must desire to be "like him" in any way let it be not in the drama of the call, but rather in the response we give:

"Here am I. Send me".

What are you being called to? How are you being open to what God might want you to do with your life?¹

Blessing

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

Amen.²

¹ Reflection written by Tim Baker

² Additional prayers by Tim Baker

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

Monday 7th February

- One of the patron saints for today is Saint Richard the Pilgrim. We don't know much about him (as he died in 720!) but we do know that he led his family on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.
- So today, why not pray about pilgrimage? Perhaps for yourself, and the metaphorical pilgrimage of your life's journey? Or for all who are currently embarking on a pilgrimage?
- As you pray, open your mind and heart as to what 'next step' you are being invited to take on your walk through life.

Tuesday 8th February

- Today, take the mantra from this week's reflections: 'Here I am, send me.'
- Your prayer activity for today is to try to say those 5 words – aloud or in your head – as many times as you can during the day. Say them as a prayer. Say them as an invitation. Say them as a way of stilling your busy brain to focus on God's still, small voice.
- Here I am. Send me.

Wednesday 9th February

- God is everywhere, if only you could be still enough to notice.
- Today, your challenge is to notice.
- Look for God in the sunrise, the birdsong, the taste of pizza, the comfort of your sofa, the embrace of a loved one, a text message that makes you smile...whatever it is.
- Notice.

Thursday 10th February

- Today, you could turn your prayers towards people affected by the ongoing Covid pandemic. Health workers, scientists and researchers, grievers and mourners, the isolated, the lonely, the afraid.
- Lord, in the midst of this terrifying and uncertain time for our world,
In a time of so much fear and anxiety,
So much death, grief and uncertainty,
I look to you to provide light and hope and the possibility that things can get better in the end.
Come Lord Jesus. Come Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Friday 11th February

- The 11th Feb is always the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (as designated by the UN). Around the world, science continues to be a space often dominated by men and in which women and girls are made to feel they do not have a place.
- The UN has designated this as a day to celebrate all the people who are trying to change that, and to help make it happen faster.
- Today, Lord God, I give thanks for all who are working to make the science accessible and safe places for people from all background, ethnicities and genders to flourish and thrive, so that we may continue to learn more of your world and build better, safer, more justice societies in the future.
- Come, God of justice.
Amen.

Saturday 12th February

- God of all grace,
Despite centuries of hoping, praying, campaigning and conscious objection, we still live in a world surrounded by war and violence.
On this Red Hand Day, when we join together to call on politicians to prevent militaries and militias from using child soldiers – anywhere in the world – our prayers are for peace.
- God of peace, show me what is mine to do to build a more peaceful world.
Help me to do my bit, to play my part.
- Amen.