

twelvebaskets



ORDINARY 5C

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

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Ordinary 5 - Year C
6th February 2022



Order of Service

Call to worship

Hymn:

83 STF – Praise, my soul, the King of heaven OR

148 STF – Come, let us with our Lord arise

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

Hymn:

550 STF – Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go OR

88 STF – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Reflections on the readings

Hymn:

560 STF – My eyes be open to your presence OR

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

What am I being called to?

Hymn:

293 STF – All heaven declares OR

669 STF – The Saviour, when to heaven he rose

Intercessions

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

This Lord's day, we gather to encounter you, our risen Lord.

This holy day, we come to learn more of you, our loving Lord.

This moment, in this act of worship, we commit ourselves to you again, come amongst us by your Spirit.

Amen.¹

Hymn:

83 STF – Praise, my soul, the King of heaven OR

148 STF – Come, let us with our Lord arise

Opening Prayers

Reveal yourself, gracious God, within this time of worship. Speak to us through the songs we sing, prayers we speak, words we hear.

Reveal yourself, gracious God, within your family here. In our speaking and listening, tears and laughter, love is shared.

Reveal yourself, gracious God, within these coming days, in the places where we live, with people we meet, at work and play.

A prayer of adoration

This earth, full of your glory, praises your name through unspoken words of beauty and peace; reveals your love through hand of stranger and gift of grace.

This earth, full of your glory, praises your provision through living water and food to eat; reveals your word through daily blessings and bread of life.

This earth, full of your glory, praises your name.

A prayer of confession

If we have failed to recognise your love in the actions of a friend or stranger, forgive us.

If we have failed to recognise your voice through the chatter of the world we live in, forgive us.

If we have failed to remember your love in the interactions of our daily life, forgive us.

Renew our hearts in worship.

Renew our minds in wisdom.

Renew our hands in service and may our lives become a willing offering to you.

A prayer of thanksgiving

You challenge us to follow you, not by staying where we are but by stepping out in faith, casting our net into deeper water, as did Simon Peter, fisherman.

You challenge us to trust you and be prepared for all eventualities, even when the load is heavy and the journey hard.

But with your challenge comes blessing, as flimsy nets are filled and broken lives

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

made whole, as emptiness becomes abundance.

Thank you for this challenge. Grant us faith enough to follow and strength enough to endure.

Through Christ alone we ask.

Amen.²

We say together the Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

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?

² Opening prayers taken from The Act of Prayer by John Birch

Today, we hear the stories of ‘calling’ from across both the Old and New Testaments in the Bible. What are you being called to? How are you being open to what God might want you to do with your life?³

Hymn:

550 STF – Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go OR

88 STF – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Reflections on the reading

Jake Blues appears trance-like as he turns to his brother Elwood and utters the immortal words:

“We’re on a mission from God.”

The Blues Brothers is a great film. Movies are a personal thing and when you “get” one, or maybe more appropriately when one “gets” you, it moves you somewhere deep inside. Perhaps The Blues Brothers has that effect on you – or maybe not. But what’s not to love about the irreverence, the comedy, the mania, the coolness of the whole story of the Blues Brothers!

There is a strong story of “call” within the film, that can help us engage with our Bible passages today. Jake is released from prison back into the company of his brother and they learn of the desperate plight of the orphanage that helped to raise them as children. The orphanage needs \$5,000 to survive and so Jake takes the lead on the mission. He is driven and determined, and you get the sense that nothing is going to stop him or get in his way. They decide to do the only thing they know how to do... they’re going to “put the band back together”.

The sense of call is undeniably evident within Jake as he embarks on his recruitment drive to get the other band members to forget their safe, ordered lives and come back and join in with them. It is reminiscent of the call of Jesus’ disciples. Something within them pulls them away from the apparent security and comfort of what they are doing “now”, and like a nail to a magnet they are irresistibly drawn to the cause. In Luke chapter 5, we get something of the immediacy of the disciples’ response to whatever it was they sensed in Jesus:

“When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.”

In this first “disciplinary” letter to the people of Corinth, Paul ends with a very pointed and barbed summary. He concisely sums up the important parts of Jesus life, death and resurrection as if to underline the things that really matter to attempt to remind the folks there what it was they were once moved by, and apparently what they seem to have forgotten all about, if their current wayward behaviour is anything to go by.

What is so interesting is that Paul also includes (and therefore deems equally important) in this crucial summary his own feelings of personal worthlessness and

³ All Age Talk written by Tim Baker

inadequacy (given his shady background, not unlike Jake Blues himself!!) but notes that he is brought forth into a place of usefulness and purpose by the sheer grace of God, and the grace of God alone. It is immensely powerful stuff. It was meant to resonate with the lost people of Corinth, and it can resonate just as much with us today.

So today we're thinking about that powerful, inevitable, uncontrollable sense of call we might feel when God knocks on our door.

A friend of mine tells of a time when he and his wife attended a church meeting one Friday evening at which they discussed a need for their church to develop its youth work and wanted to establish a Youth Club. They discussed it, resolved it was a good idea, but did not agree any of the detail regarding who would actually take on the running of the club. He then described waking up the next morning in a cold sweat, with a sense of "Oh no!" when he immediately realised exactly which husband and wife duo were about to launch the new Youth Club...

Have you ever felt that sense of overwhelming inevitability?

Are you feeling it right now?

Are you listening?

Do you remember the television advert for Croft Original sherry? There was a stereotypical butler who was serving drinks to his aristocratic master and he would only ever choose to serve one particular sherry because he knew so very definitely that it was, of course, the best there was. He would confidently declare: "one instinctively knows when something is right". And he was right. We do know when something is right. The mechanism is called our conscience and when it's left alone and trusted it is an exceptionally good judge of right and wrong.

We just need to listen. We need to listen to those messages we hear that feel "overwhelmingly inevitable".

Perhaps it is God, "talking".⁴

Hymn:

560 STF – My eyes be open to your presence OR

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

What are you being called to?

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 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.

⁴ Reflection written by Kevin Dobson

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”.⁵

Hymn:

293 STF – All heaven declares OR

669 STF – The Saviour, when to heaven he rose

Prayers of intercession

God of love and grace and beauty,
we give you thanks for your hospitable love which welcomes all people.

In our prayers today we remember those who feel alienated and unwelcome:

We pray for those who weep because they have had to leave home and all that is dear to them;

for those who seek asylum, fleeing persecution, poverty and oppression;

for those who live in exile, forced to leave the familiar and to rely on the kindness of strangers.

When people cry that they cannot sing the Lord’s song in a strange land, may we help them find a voice.

Silence

Gracious God:

Hear our prayer

We pray for those who weep because they have no home

for those living in poor housing conditions and fearing for their children;

for those who fall through the cracks of welfare and charitable support.

When people cry that they cannot sing the Lord’s song in a strange land, may we help them find a voice.

Silence

Gracious God:

Hear our prayer

We pray for those who weep because they are not free to worship as they wish

for those whose faith is a struggle in the face of persecution

and for those who find that their faith seems less relevant or vibrant than it once was.

When people cry that they cannot sing the Lord’s song in a strange land, may we help them find a voice.

⁵ Reflection written by Kevin Dobson

Silence

Gracious God:

Hear our prayer

We pray for ourselves, for our own sense of dislocation;
for those times when words fail us and we feel lost and unwelcome
for our own need to belong and feel at home in our families and in church.

When we cry that we cannot sing the Lord's song in a strange land, may we find a voice.

Silence

Gracious God:

Hear our prayer

Amen.⁶

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 written by Michaela Youngson

⁷ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

⁸ Additional prayers by Tim Baker