

This short act of worship has been produced for you by Revd Dan Haylett. If you are well enough and able, why not spend a few moments with God, perhaps at a time when you would normally be sharing with others in church - pray for them as they pray for you.

Opening Prayer

Holy God,
In your presence we find our rest.
Still our hearts, lift our spirits and accept our praise this day.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: StF 11 Holy, Holy, Holy

Sing/Read/pray/proclaim the words or listen to it here
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzM9P_Gqw-s

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art. and evermore shalt be.
Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,

only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Let us pray together:

We lift our hearts and our prayers to you, Holy God. To you,
the source of all we are, we bring our all.

You are Love beyond measure, and with you there is
compassion and faithful commitment. All creation looks to
you.

You bring peace in Christ Jesus, putting us back together,
making us one with you. We open our hearts to you.

You are our constant joy, and our rock in times of testing. Your
Spirit comes to each and to all.

Holy God, Creator, Redeemer and Saviour of all, we worship
you today. We seek your grace and forgiveness in our lives as
we confess our need for you. Bring healing and hope to us, as
we turn towards you.

May Christ's presence make the difference for us today, may
we be drawn deeper into your love for us and for all.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Today's Reading from the Hebrew Bible Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.'

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen

had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' ⁵Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Time to Reflect

What difference would it make to think about your life as vocation? Seeing your job and interests, volunteering and all your commitments as vocation rather than as a set of diary dates or jobs that must be done.

Vocation means "a calling". We believe that God calls people

into relationship, and then calls them to specific tasks and roles. More than that, God gives all that is needed to respond. As our own Revd. Dr Valentin Dedji often remarks, “God does not call the equipped; God equips those God calls”.

Seeing our lives in this way might well unleash the sort of divine glory glimpsed by Isaiah or disturb us in the same way that Simon Peter finds his own work disrupted by Jesus. Jesus calls us and gives us all we need to respond. This truth can change our lives.

For Isaiah, the well know verses from Chapter 6 are often described as his “calling”. Yet even with my poor maths, I can work out that there have already been 5 chapters speaking about Isaiah’s prophetic ministry! Isaiah 6 is not the start, but it is a profound moment of experience: where the prophet glimpses the holiness and glory of God. I love the thought that Isaiah is overwhelmed after catching a vision of just the hem of God’s robes – imagine if he was able to see even more of God’s glory!

Suddenly aware of all that he lacked, and of the compromises that he lived with, Isaiah finds God’s grace and mercy reaching him. In a painful vision, his lips are touched with coal to cleanse them and his mouth is opened to share God’s word. In the light of God’s holiness and in his sense of inadequacy, Isaiah finds that he is sent; to go and to be who God wanted him to be.

Calling then is linked to sending. Isaiah doesn’t learn much

about the specific role he has to fill or the details of the job he’s entrusted with. But he is given a vision that will sustain and empower him to live out his everyday life with a new Kingdom perspective.

In Luke, we also read a calling story. This time, the disciples have been hard at work and things have not gone well. Having worked all night with no reward, and preparing to do the same later on, Jesus interrupts. Jesus calls to those who were tired out from their labour and apparent failure. He calls them to do the last thing the disciples wanted to do: to get back in the boats and go again, throwing out the nets.

The reality is that God’s calling doesn’t always come at the right time or most convenient moment for us. God’s calling doesn’t always seem like the natural or best thing for us to be doing, just as we reflected on in those big words we shared in our Covenant services.

Yet the disciples’ show us what happens when we have the courage to accept the significance of vocation. Simon Peter doesn’t respond, “Lord, we’ve already tried it and it didn’t work”. He doesn’t say, “Look, I know what I am doing here”. But neither does he make what we might call a text book response of fully formed faith. He does however make the response of a real, human faith, “Yet if you say so....”. Despite all the reservations he felt about what Jesus was saying, Simon Peter grits his teeth and goes with the invitation.

What difference would it make to you to begin to think and see

your life in these terms? God is calling to you and sending you to be light and salt, to bring peace, joy and love to those you work with, live with, volunteer alongside.

God is calling and giving you all that you for faithful living, for flourishing beyond the mere detail of our daily jobs and tasks. What difference does the awareness of God's gracious calling and sending make to you? What would happen if today you were to say to God, "Yet, if you say so, I will do it"?

A time of prayer

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Hear our pray for all who hear the calling of Jesus in their lives today. We pray for those serving God and their neighbours in their work, volunteering, around their homes and with their friends and loved one.

We pray for all who are wrestling with a sense of what God wants them to do, or are feeling a sense of divine discontent. Stir us up to see and do your perfect will.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Hear our prayer for all who fear that God would not call people like them. We pray for those who imagine they have nothing to offer, or struggle to find a way to use their gifts. We give thanks for your creative Spirit at work in each life.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Hear our prayer for our world. We pray for diplomatic attempts to prevent war and conflict in many places at this

time. We pray for places where people suffer and work with little prospect of a fair reward.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Hear our prayer for those on our hearts, for all who have asked for our prayers. May we be ready to share in Jesus' ministry to all.

We make our prayers in the name of Jesus, our Master. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn: StF 660 Called by Christ

Sing/Read/pray/proclaim the words or listen to it here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5f10N6umzc

Called by Christ to be disciples
every day in every place,
we are not to hide as hermits
but to spread the way of grace;
citizens of heaven's kingdom,
though this world is where we live,
as we serve a faithful Master,
faithful service may we give.

Richly varied are our pathways,
many callings we pursue:
may we use our gifts and talents
always, Lord, to honour you;
so in government or commerce,
college, hospice, farm or home,
whether volunteers or earning,
may we see your kingdom come.

Hard decisions may confront us,
urging us to compromise;
still obedience is our watchword --
make us strong and make us wise!

Secular is turned to sacred,
made a precious offering,
as our daily lives are fashioned
in submission to our King.

Martin Leckebusch (b. 1962)

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A prayer of blessing

As you have called us in Christ, Holy God, now send us in the
power of your Spirit. May we honour you as we live out of
your fullness.

May God's blessing be with you today and always. Amen.

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