

Sunday, 7th August 2022

Proper 14 | Ordinary 19

The Rev’d Dr

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Call to Worship

The God of eternity calls us: **Come, let us worship!**

Willing to hear God’s voice, eager to serve God’s ways, the Jesus of the Gospels call us:

**Come, let us worship!**

Willing to listen to stories, eager to walk in the way of Christ,

the Spirit of holy adventure calls us: **Come, let us worship!**

Willing to go where the Spirit leads, eager to be challenged anew:

**Come, let us worship!**

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Forgiveness

Awesome God,

when we consider your creating power, we stand amazed.

You spoke, and worlds came into being:

the star-spangled universe,

the beautiful green-blue earth,

the expanse of the heavens,

stretching beyond our imagination

the abundance of nature on land and in seas,

from the tiniest insect to the great beasts

that dwell in forest and savanna,

from minnows to the great whales

that frolic in the seas,

everyone the work of your hands.

Awesome God

when we consider that out of dust

you created human beings, we stand amazed.

Flesh and bone, muscle and sinew, life and breath, all working in harmony;

each unique and precious, the same yet different, gloriously diverse.

Awesome God,

we barely dare to stand before you -

you who are both mystery and yet present with us.

And yet you call us to you.

You open your arms to greet us.

In Jesus you share our lives;

our sorrows and joys,

our disappointments and anxieties,

our hopes and dreams.

Awesome God,

we respond to your call and come to worship you.

And even as we sing your praise

and reflect on your goodness

we are aware of our own shortcomings and failures.

Though we seek to follow Jesus, we often give up when the path is hard,

We follow our own desires instead of listening to your voice.

We harden our hearts to the needs of others and put ourselves first.

We bring to you what we would have you change in us

*Silence is kept*

Awesome God,

love is your nature and forgiveness freely given.

Renew and restore us to live your ways and be your people Amen.

With thanksgiving we accept your mercy and grace,

newness of life and endless fresh beginnings.

Gracious God let us trust in your words of healing and life.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is Your love for those who fear You;

as far as the east is from the west,

so far have You removed our transgressions from us.  Amen

An All Age Activity / Introduction

There are two ways into the text “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

**Either**…talk about refugees and how hard it is for people to leave their homes. They can’t take very much with them, they may have to walk for a long way, carry things for a long time. They might take important papers, like their passport or the deeds to their house, or they might take something that reminds them of home. Ask people to think about what they would take – what is important to them? Perhaps talk about what you would take and why.

**Or**….bring something that is meaningful to you and talk about it and what it means to you. You could bring a wedding ring, a photo of your children, something from your own childhood – anything that can illustrate that what is really important is relationship and talk about God wanting us to put God first.

**Another idea**….bring a chequebook (remember those?!) or a made-up credit card bill and read out the stubs/line entries: Domino’s Pizza, McDonalds, Fred’s Chippy – what does it say about you? You love fast food and you don’t like to cook. How people spend their money says a lot about them. Do you spend your money on the things of God?

**Quick Drama: Coffee with Jesus**

*This could be used here or as an introduction to the sermon, or you could turn it into a story*

Have five people standing in a line facing the congregation. They each in turn have a mobile phone conversation with Jesus starting off as follows: "Hi Jesus, how are you? What's happening?" Then a pause (as if listening) to which they respond: "You want go out for a coffee? That would be great but... Each of the first four have an excuse. No 1 is too busy keeping fit, No 2 is too busy with their study and/or career, No 3 is too busy with family/house/car etc and No 4 is too busy doing church stuff. When each of these four give their excuses keep it natural by letting them make up the dialogue as they go. As each one finishes their conversation, they look quite sad and turn around and face away from the congregation with their arms folded. When No 5 has his/her conversation it starts off exactly the same way but this person accepts the invitation with delight and walks off happily.

Prayer for Illumination

O God,

open out ears to Your Word;

open our hearts to Your Love;

open our minds to Your wisdom.

As we hear the Scriptures,

let us know You speaking to us.

Let us see Jesus showing Your way.

Let Your Spirit move us to action in the world.

Open our ears, our hearts, our minds. Amen

Readings

*Isaiah 1:1, 10-20* | *St Luke 12:32-40*

Notes for A Sermon

Focus on the Isaiah reading and think about what we offer to God. At first sight this seems an alien passage – talk of sacrifices and rituals that we do not offer – the days of sacrifice are over – Jesus death and resurrection brings in new ways of relating to God. But we do continue to offer worship (even singing of the “sacrifice of praise”) – what might be pleasing to God about our worship? Or not? How do we come to worship? Out of duty? To see friends? Because the music is good? Do we stay away if we don’t like a particular preacher? Or do we come with open hearts to encounter the living God? What is Isaiah warning the people about here? And is it a warning we still need to hear?

There is then a link to the Gospel – when our hearts are in the right place, we can begin to work for and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Or focus entirely on the Gospel passage. What does it mean to live in an open-handed, open- hearted way in a culture that encourages us to keep things for ourselves? There might be a reference to the willingness of people to take refugees from Ukraine into their homes (would it have been so popular without a government subsidy?), and even, if appropriate ask why, as a country, we did not make the same offer to Syrians and Afghanis. Or you might prefer to keep the focus on the congregation’s context and ask how you can offer yourselves to the work of God’s kingdom in the place where you are. What has the church got that it can offer in an open-handed way? How can we model this Kingdom in our communities?

If your church is used to discussion, that would be a good topic for a discussion session, with the worship leader pulling the strands of conversation together (and maybe holding onto them for a church meeting).

Offering

God’s love for us knows no bounds. In Jesus, God comes into the mess and muddle of our humanity and makes it sacred. We bring our gifts to God. Gifts that we offer out of the ordinariness that is our daily living. Gifts that we offer in gratitude for all that God has done for us through the Cross and Resurrection. Gifts that we bring inspired by the Sprit to offer with our thanks, praise, and ourselves.

O God,

We offer our gifts as symbols of our lives.

Help us to use these and all of your gifts wisely,

Bless our offering of money and of ourselves

and use all to build your Kingdom and share your love. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

God, Creator, Healer, Sustainer, we bring to you our prayers

We pray for the world in all its beauty and pain: the land stripped bare of resources by human greed, the animals and plants driven to extinction the oceans overfished and exploited.

*Silence is kept*

We pray for those who call us to account for our misuse of the planet.

Give them courage to speak and give us courage to act to protect the globe. We pray for the healing of the world

We pray for your people, each one made in your image:

those caught up in war, living in fear, fleeing in terror,

those dying in places of famine, where enough is a distant dream,

those burdened by poverty in lands filled with wealth.

*Silence is kept*

We pray for all who speak for justice and equity among peoples and nations:

those who broker peace in the face of hunger for power.

Give them courage to speak

and give us courage to act with and for those in need

We pray for the healing of the nations.

We pray for your Church in every place

sent out by the flame and wind of Pentecost

to tell your story and be your love.

We pray for the unity that comes through Christ.

We pray that your Church may rejoice in diversity of worship and style

and that all may be pleasing to you.

We pray that your Church may serve you in Spirit and in truth

*Silence is kept*

We pray for those who call us to unity and friendship,

who challenge us to inclusion for all, justice for all, fullness of life for all;

give them courage to speak and give is courage to serve

We pray for the healing of the Church.

We pray for ourselves:

carrying the burdens we bring and cannot let go of,

the unspoken and unhealed hurts,

grief in its fresh rawness or the dull ache of time.

We pray for those we know in need of your presence today

and in the days to come.

*Silence is kept*

We pray for healing and wholeness

that we may more faithfully follow Jesus and serve the world.

In the name of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Blessing

Send us out with hearts filled with love.

Send us out in the name of Jesus.

Send us out in the power of the Spirit.

Send us out alert to need,

awake to opportunities to be and tell Good News.

Send us with your blessing Holy God.

And may that same God, Mother and Father to us all,

Jesus our brother,

and the Spirit of joy and hope,

be with us and in us, around us and before us,

in all our coming and going,

today and always. Amen.

Hymns & Music

You may wish to have this music played either before the service starts or as a reflective piece in the service. The Performing Rights Society grants a waiver for recorded music used in Divine Worship but you will need a licence if you live stream the recording on the Internet.

Treasure by *Iona* on the album *Beyond these Shores* [*https://youtu.be/vMBiJq7Smvk*](https://youtu.be/vMBiJq7Smvk)

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| **Hymn** | **RS** | **StF** | **CH4** | **MP** |
| *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven* | 104 | 83 | 160 | 560 |
| *As the Deer Pants for the Water* |  | 544 | 550 | 37 |
| *Take My Life* | 371 | 566 | 502 | 624 |
| *Be Thou My Vision* | 489 | 545 | 465 | 51 |
| *Key:*  *RS = Rejoice and Sing, StF = Singing the Faith, CH4 = Church Hymnary 4, MP = Mission Praise* | | | | |