

Welcome to worship

Be still, you may like to light a candle. Take some time to remember and focus on God's loving presence. We remember all those of our circuit worshipping in so many different ways.

Call to Worship:

Spending time at home alone or pecking away at our computers:

we wait for you, God of all words, speak to us.

Pacing the wards of a hospital or sitting waiting for results

we wait for you, God of comfort, to fill us with hope.

In the silence of each night and the beginning of each day's new journey:

we wait for you, Steadfast Love, for you are a safe place.

Hymn: StF 56 King of Glory, King of Peace

[\(234\) King of glory King of peace \(gospel hymn\) - YouTube](#)

- 1 King of Glory, King of Peace,
I will love thee ;
and that love may never cease
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
thou hast heard me ;
thou didst note my working breast,
thou hast spared me.
- 2 Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
thou didst clear me ;
and alone, when they replied,
thou didst hear me.
- 3 Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee ;
in my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
to enrol thee :
e'en eternity's too short
to extol thee.

George Herbert (1593–1633)

Prayer of Praise

Loving God, Threefold One;
You have gathered us in,
Welcomed us and made Yourself present
among us.

We come to worship

We come to worship the Threefold One

Giving God, Creator;
Our source, our goal, our life,
create in us a new heart
Open to all that is good and that brings life
We come to worship

We come to worship our Creator

Saving God, Redeemer;
We entrust to You the unresolved issues we
leave behind for a time
And trust them to Your care as we dwell with
You in this place

We come to worship

We come to worship our Redeemer

Abiding God, Sustainer;
Inspire us, refresh us, renew us and revive us
as we look to You, to guide and console –
move among us.

We come to worship

We come to worship our Sustainer

Enfolding God, Trinity of love,
Let us be open to the richness and miracle in
meeting.
Let us be open to the blessings found in
surprising places,
as You have opened Your deep heart of love
to us, Your blessed children.

We come to worship

**We come to worship in the presence of
the trinity of love. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of forgiveness

Gracious God,
if we say we have no sin, we deceive
ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
We may possibly deceive ourselves,
but we know we can never deceive you,
for you see us for who we really are,
with all our faults and weaknesses,
our unworthy actions and ugly thoughts;
and so we come seeking your pardon.

We want to serve you,
we mean to follow the way of Christ,
but our hearts are fickle and our faith is
flawed,
the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak;
and so in humility we come,
acknowledging our faithfulness,
and seeking your pardon.

Gracious God,
you invite us to wash and be clean,
to confess our sins and to receive
forgiveness;
and so we come with joy,
acknowledging your grace
and assured of your pardon!

Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour,
Amen.

Hymn: StF 440 Amazing Grace
[\(234\) Amazing Grace \(My Chains are Gone\) - Chris Tomlin \(with lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

- 1 Amazing grace — how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 Twas God's grace has taught my heart
to fear,
and grace my fears relieved ;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed !

*My chains are gone, I've been set free
my God my Saviour, has ransomed me
and like a flood, his mercy reigns
unending love, Amazing Grace.*

- 3 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures ;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

My chains have gone

- 4 The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine
but God, who called me here below
will be forever mine,
will be forever mine
you are forever mine.

John Newton (1725–1807) (alt.) and Chris Tomlin

Bible readings: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹ I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰ and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Gospel Reading Mark 1:14-20 ***The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry***

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Reflection by Carol Colton

Those words from Mark's Gospel telling of the calling of the first disciples, Simon and Andrew, and James and John, are probably quite familiar to most of us. Why did Jesus choose fishermen we may wonder, what attributes did they possess that would be useful to him in his mission? Well, they had to be physically strong to handle the boats, and to haul in nets full of fish, and, they needed strength of character to deal with bad weather conditions and poor catches. They also needed good people skills to work with other crew members, and to sell their catch to the public. So, a good choice was made by Jesus.

The two sets of brothers were ready to follow Jesus at a moment's notice. No quibbling

about who was going to replace them in the boats, or about the concerns of their families, the choice was made. It may well be that Jesus had been actively teaching, or discussing the Scriptures, in the synagogues for a while. They may have heard him or even talked with him, and about him, so were able to make that decision immediately. The men must have had faith in Jesus' words and ideas, and his ability to pull in a crowd, to want to be part of this new philosophy, new theology, The Good News. Jesus had many followers, but to be hand-picked by him, to be called by name, to be sharing a part of this new enterprise that God was bringing to the world through his Son, must have given them that rare feeling of kudos.

But, of course, being a disciple was not going to be easy. There was much that they would have to learn, much that they would not understand. It was going to be demanding, both physically and emotionally. They would be leaving their families for long periods of time. It would need a deep faith in God to keep them going, and to entrust the well-being and care of their loved ones to the Almighty. Following Jesus, discipleship, meant giving up a lot of earthly things, and still does, but it was to bring more in faith, knowledge, and God's blessings, as it still does to those who answer the call to faith.

Jesus may call us to follow him anytime, anywhere, or even through a third party. Jesus may call us at an inconvenient moment. It was probably an inconvenient moment for those who were first to be called, BUT, they did not let that stop them. Of course, they could have said 'no', just as we have that choice today. What happens if we do not heed that call? Well, in my case God kept on calling, finding me all sorts of jobs to do in the church until I finally took up his call to become a local preacher.

God has his plans for us and calls us in many ways according to our situation. I remember meeting a lady some years ago who suffered badly with Arthritis. She was no longer able to live alone and decided to go onto a care home. She belonged to the Baptist church and felt strongly that God was calling her to a

new ministry within that care home, which she fulfilled extremely well.

What has God got planned for us in the years to come?

Hymn: StF 673 Will you come and follow
[\(234\) Will you come and follow Me, The Summons. a Christian song of following a calling from God - YouTube](#)

- 1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name ?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same ?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me ?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name ?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same ?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare ?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me ?
- 3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name ?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same ?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me ?
- 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name ?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same ?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me ?
- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray.

Reconciling God,

We pray for Your World.

May all that is divided by doctrine or politics,
class or nationality, be united in Your praise.

We pray for a peaceful world,
where children grow up without fear,
where security rests on trust rather than
threats,
and where nations fight against poverty
rather than against each other.

We pray for all in authority,
that those who lead us,
may establish right priorities,
and that by Your wisdom and their vision
the world may reflect Your kingdom.

Healing God,
We pray for those who are ill and suffering,
for all who are worried
for those who are grieving or experiencing
trauma
and for a world gripped by the repercussions
of pandemic.

May we all know the power of Christ to
sustain us
and the love of friends near and distanced to
support us.
You know our greatest fears, our longings
and our hopes,
sometimes these are expressed in so many
different ways,
so Lord, in Your mercy,
hear those prayers.

Eternal God, Present among us.
You are with us in our gathering,
You are with us in our distancing.
Hear our prayers, and blend our voices
together,
unite us by Your Spirit
as we join together in the prayer that Jesus
taught us to pray, in the language of our
heart... **Our Father...**

Blessing of our Gifts

Loving God, we bring these gifts
as a small way of thanking you for all you
have given,
and as an outward expression
of all we want to offer you in return.
We bring with them ourselves and our life
together,
our prayers and our worship,
our words and our deeds,
our living and our loving.
We bring ourselves, in grateful praise,
through Jesus Christ out Lord. **Amen**

Hymn: StF 407 Hear the call of the kingdom

[\(234\) Hear The Call of The Kingdom - YouTube](#)

- 1 Hear the call of the kingdom,
lift your eyes to the King ;
let his song rise within you
as a fragrant offering
of how God, rich in mercy,
came in Christ to redeem
all who trust in his unfailing grace.
- 2 Hear the call of the kingdom
to be children of light
with the mercy of heaven,
the humility of Christ ;
walking justly before him,
loving all that is right,
that the life of Christ may shine through us.

*King of heaven, we will answer the call.
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,
filled with passion, filled with power to
proclaim
salvation in Jesus' name.*

- 3 Hear the call of the kingdom
to reach out to the lost
with the Father's compassion
in the wonder of the cross,
bringing peace and forgiveness,
and a hope yet to come :
let the nations put their trust in him.

King of heaven, we will answer the call ...

Keith Getty (b.1974), Kristyn Getty (b.1980) and Stuart Townend (b.1963)

Blessing

God bless us today that we may be a
blessing
**In our seeing, In our hearing, In our
speaking.**

God bless to us today that we may be a
blessing
**In our reaching, In our holding, In our
letting go**

God bless us today
**in our thinking, In our feeling, In our
loving, AMEN**

THE GRACE

We say together...
**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with us all forever more.
Amen.**

Some Resources taken from:

Where the broken gather by Thom M Shuman
Starters for Sunday, The Church of Scotland