

twelvebaskets



ORDINARY 16B

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

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Ordinary 16 - Year B
21st July 2024



Order of Service

Call to worship

Hymn:

156 STF – From the breaking of the dawn OR

513 STF – Take this moment, sign, and space

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

Hymn:

628 STF – Faithful One, so unchanging OR

346 STF – Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Hymn:

434 STF – Rock of ages, cleft for me OR

530 STF – To be in your presence

Reflections on the readings

Hymn:

653 STF – O Christ, the Healer, we have come OR

623 STF – A safe stronghold our God is still

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

Hymn:

409 STF – Let us build a house where love can dwell OR

651 STF – Lord of life, we come to you

Blessing

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Call to worship

The Spirit of the Lord says 'come'.
Jesus Christ, the bride of the church, says 'come'.
Let anyone who hears this say 'come'.
Let anyone who is thirsty, thirsty for the water of life, come.

Come, all are welcome,
The Spirit of God is in this place. Come.
Amen.¹

Hymn:

156 STF – From the breaking of the dawn OR
513 STF – Take this moment, sign, and space

Opening Prayers

Let us pray.

Take this moment, sign and space,
We give thanks for this time.

Time to worship you our God.

Time to appreciate our world and those we share our lives with.

Let us be aware of your love.

Take the time to call my name,
Thank you that you know each one of us.

Loving each one of us.

You know us, even the bits of us that make us uncomfortable,
The bits we hide, that bring us shame.

You love us always.

Take the tiredness of my days,
We know we make mistakes.

We get things wrong,
We paralyse ourselves with self-doubt and the knowledge we fall short,
Help us accept your forgiveness, your unconditional love.

Take the little child in me,
We get scared.

Fear the future,
Fear that we are unworthy,
Fear being ourselves... in your image.

¹ Call to worship written by Tim Baker

Help us to know our worth,
Our potential.
Your love for us.

Take my talents, take my skills, take what's yet to be,
Thank you for all you have given each of us.

Our individuality.

The opportunities each new day brings.

Your unconditional love,
We are yours and yet you delight in our individuality.

Thank you.

Amen.²

We say together the Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

I wonder who in your family is the feeder? We all have at least one person don't we? A nan, an uncle or maybe even one of your parents? Each family often has someone who just loves to feed people up to their so full that they can barely move.

Jesus was a great feeder! I mean Jesus was often seen with some sort of food in his hand. Whether it be on the side of a lake cooking fish or at a wedding, Jesus often had food with him. However in our story today Jesus is caught out! Jesus is followed by literally thousands of people. They sit down on the side of the hill and listen intently to every word that he has to offer. They listen so well in fact that they all forget it's past their tea time and that they are starving.

Jesus panics a bit and asks the Phillip one of the disciples: "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

Can you imagine Phillip's panic! I mean how much would they have to earn to simply afford that let alone find somewhere that would have the food. It wasn't like now where we have supermarkets. No they had nothing like that.

Thankfully a young boy offers what he has. Five loaves of bread and 2 fish... That hardly seems enough does it? Yet, much to the surprise of the disciples, Jesus breaks the food up and hands it to them to give to well over 5000 people! Can you imagine doing that?

You would think that after say 20 people the disciples would have returned empty handed wouldn't you? Yet, amazingly, after all, yes all were fed. The disciples came back with twelve baskets full of food left over!

What an amazing miracle happened that day. All were fed.

This story is amazing in so many ways. Firstly because Jesus was able to perform such an amazing miracle and it shows once again how awesome Jesus is. Secondly and I think

² Opening prayers written by Lorna Dobson

importantly it goes to show how special it is when we share what we have. When we share, others benefit and enjoy what we have.

What could you share with others? How do you think they would feel if you were to share?

Amen.³

Hymn:

628 STF – Faithful One, so unchanging OR

346 STF – Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Hymn:

434 STF – Rock of ages, cleft for me OR

530 STF – To be in your presence

Reflections on the readings

Hello friends.

It's wonderful to see each of you here today. I'm excited to share with you a message that connects our call with our mission to reconcile and renew the world around us. We will be exploring two passages: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 and Ephesians 2:11-22. Let's dive into these scriptures to uncover how they speak to us about compassion, unity, and our role as peacemakers in the world.

In Mark 6, the disciples return from a busy mission, excited yet exhausted. They gather around Jesus, eager to report everything they've done and taught. Jesus, seeing their need, says, "Come away by yourselves to a remote place and rest a while."

So, let's start with a little interaction: By show of hands, how many of you feel like you could use a restful retreat right now? Yes, I see those hands!

But as they seek rest, they find the crowds waiting, hungry for guidance like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus' heart is moved with compassion. He begins to teach them many things.

Think of a time you planned to rest, but an unexpected need arose and you chose to help. Share with the person next to you in a sentence or two. *[Pause for sharing]*

As the passage continues, wherever Jesus and the disciples go, the people bring their sick, and all who touch Jesus are healed. This shows the overwhelming power of compassion in action.

Imagine if someone carried around a mat where everyone they met who stepped on it was healed. What would our community look like? Turn to your neighbour and discuss for a moment. *[Pause for discussion]*

³ All Age Talk written by Matthew Forsyth

Moving to Ephesians, Paul speaks about something miraculous - through Christ's sacrifice, those who were once far off are brought near. He is our peace; he breaks down the wall of hostility that separates us.

For a moment, visualise a wall. On one side is you and on the other, someone you've felt distant from or in conflict with.

If you could write one word on a brick to begin breaking down that wall, what would it be? Whisper it to your neighbour. *[Pause for response]*

In both these passages, we see Jesus modelling and Paul preaching unity, peace, and reconciliation. Christ reconciles us not only to God but to each other, creating one new humanity. This is our mission: to be rest-givers, peace-makers, and healers in a world that divides and exhausts.

You might like to spend a few minutes in twos or threes writing down some notes and thinking of answers to these questions. Is there something you can commit to which will help you?

1. Where can I offer rest and respite to someone in need?
2. How can I extend compassion, even when I'm seeking quiet?
3. What steps can I take to break down walls of hostility and build bridges of peace?

Let's stand together, and if you feel comfortable, join hands. Let's say together, "May we rest, reconcile, and renew as one in Christ."

Thank you for your beautiful presence here today. Go in peace, filled with compassion and strength to transform our world.

Amen.⁴

Hymn:

653 STF – O Christ, the Healer, we have come OR

623 STF – A safe stronghold our God is still

Prayers of intercession

Today, instead of using lots of words for our prayers of intercession, our prayers for the world, we are going to hold a couple of times of quiet, and I simply invite you to bring your own prayers into those spaces.

Firstly, I invite you to spend a moment praying for those close to you: people in your family, your friends, perhaps members of this church, who are in your thoughts. It might be the people you are worried about, or just someone who you know needs to feel God's presence today.

In the stillness, hold that person, and their situation, in the light of God's love.

[Pause for a minute or two. You might like to play some quiet music during the stillness].

Come Lord God. Answer our prayers, in Jesus name.

And now, in this space, I invite you to bring a situation or person further afield. Perhaps a story from the news, or a situation or story that has found its way to you. It is probably about people or a person you will never meet, but in this moment, you want to hold those people

⁴ Reflection written by Tim Baker

in prayer.

In the stillness, we pray for a better world.

[Pause for a minute or two. You might like to play some quiet music during the stillness].

Come Lord God. You know the names, the faces, the situations that we've held in our hearts and minds over these past few minutes.

Answer our prayers, in Jesus name.

Amen.⁵

We will now take up the offering.

Thank you, Lord, for all you have given to us and all we have received. We respond to your grace with generosity – we give out of the enormous wealth we have received.

We are yours, put us to what you will,

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.⁶

Hymn:

409 STF – Let us build a house where love can dwell OR

651 STF – Lord of life, we come to you

Blessing

God of grace, Spirit of hope, Christ who transforms us – send us out with your courage, your love, your peace to bring into a community and a world in need.

Go in peace, and serve the Lord.

Amen.⁷

⁵ Prayers of intercession written by Tim Baker

⁶ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

⁷ Additional prayers by Tim Baker