



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 9th February 2025

compiled by Alison Morgan - Local Preacher

Reveal yourself, gracious God, withing 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. Amen.

Let us sing one of my favourite hymns. No. 663 in StF

1] I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
If you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2] I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have born my people's pain;
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am. Lord.....

3] I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.....

Daniel L. Schutte (b. 1947)

Such beautiful words that make us all feel we are called by God, and those who can, offer their lives to help show His love for everyone who will listen.

Let us pray

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 you your glory, praises your name.

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

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 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

Our first reading today is: Isaiah Chapter 6 vs. 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. Seraphs 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. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;

The whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And
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!” Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been
taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The 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.”

Then 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.”

Our Gospel reading is: Luke Chapter 5 vs. 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, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and

were washing their nets. He 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. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. and they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” for he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and 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.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Reflection

In today’s reading from Isaiah, we have the prophet’s mouth touched with a ‘live coal’. Oooohhh that’s gotta hurt, but he is purified so that he can speak God’s word. The whole passage is full of drama, with smoke, a throne, seraphs with 6 wings, all appearing to Isaiah, who thinks he is not worthy of seeing such wonderful, but yet, scary images. The Bible is full of people being called by God. Usually, the recipient of the call is frightened and tries to avoid it or run away. But Isaiah’s response is very definite. ‘Here am I; send me!’ This has echoes of the angel Gabriel speaking to Mary, when Mary replies ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word’.

The rest of the Isaiah chapter is clear, that although the prophet has been granted this incredible vocation and a gift of speech, no one is going to listen to him, not even the King, who will listen, but then do exactly what he wants and will not take any advice. And after all this, Israel will be invaded, the country laid waste, trees will be chopped down and all that will be left is stumps. But out of one of those stumps will come a shoot. In Isaiah chapter 11 verses 1 and 2 it reads. *A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding.*

This made me think of the Sycamore Gap tree that was so cruelly chopped down. But it has been reported that there are new shoots coming from the stump and its seedlings have been cultivated and new trees will be planted across the country.

The Gospel story of the fishermen failing to get a decent catch, or any catch, then being told to venture further, go to deeper waters, even though they had been fishing all night and were tired, must have been quite humiliating for them. They had to swallow their pride, but then having the best haul of fish ever, wow. Jesus said, ‘put out into the deep water’, the deep, a place of depth. How often is church life all about the surface of things. Where do we encounter the deep, the place of mystery, darkness, danger. The fishermen do what Jesus suggests, and when they do, there is abundance and hope. They then were told by Jesus that they would in future be fishers of men.

Putting faith in Jesus has many rewards. We all get things wrong sometimes, some more than others, but if we confess and ask for forgiveness, we know that God understands each of us, and we can be changed and transformed if we allow ourselves to be.

Whatever our stories, our failures and our mistakes, God can use them, if we let him, and bring abundance and hope. Do we have the courage to say, ‘Here am I; send me’?

I did!

Let us sing hymn 673 StF

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?

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

Let us pray

We pray for all who have been called to be workers in God's harvest, searching for the lost and loving them into the kingdom.

We pray for those who teach God's love, both by word and by the way they live.

We pray for those in authority and in positions of power, that under their leadership there may be mutual respect, integrity and justice.

We pray for discernment to see where injustice needs righting and when we need to speak out.

We pray for families suffering poverty or financial difficulties, for families full of tension and disagreement, and for families coping with grief or separation.

We pray for extended families represented here.

We pray for better awareness of how our behaviour affects others.

We pray for those who have been working all night, and all who work long hours in poor conditions.

We pray for those who have no work and feel rejected.

We pray for any resisting what God is calling them to do.

We pray for those who have died and those who grieve for the loss of their company.

And we thank you for the way you show us ourselves and still accept us with love. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

And may the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all. Now and forever.

Amen