

twelvebaskets



ORDINARY 14B

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

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Ordinary 14 - Year B
7th July 2024



Order of Service

Call to worship

Hymn:

462 STF – Come with me, come wander OR

79 STF – I'll praise my Maker while I've breath

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

Hymn:

483 STF – We are marching in the light of God OR

156 STF – From the breaking of the dawn

Readings: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

Hymn:

683 STF – Great is our redeeming Lord OR

518 STF – Father, hear the prayer we offer

Reflections on the readings

Hymn:

673 STF – Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? OR

660 STF – Called by Christ to be disciples

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

Hymn:

658 STF – A charge to keep I have OR

459 STF – Captain of Israel's host, and Guide

Blessing

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Call to worship

Gracious God, we come,
We come to gather in your presence,
We come to worship you and hear your call on our lives this day.
Come amongst us, by your Spirit, we pray

Amen.¹

Hymn:

462 STF – Come with me, come wander OR
79 STF – I'll praise my Maker while I've breath

Opening Prayers

As we come together to share our prayers let us begin with a time of quiet, a time to slow our minds, take a deep breath, take another deep breath (if possible leave a couple of minutes silence)

Creator God we give thanks,
We thank you for new days, fresh starts and opportunities,
For this world you have created for us.
We give thanks for your love, for your presence in our lives.
Help us know that we can see your presence reflected all around us...
In the beauty of creation, in the eyes of every person me meet.

We are sorry that our lives can seem like a whirlwind, worshipping at the notion of busyness...
Not taking time to stop and appreciate your world,
those people who enrich our lives.

You so love us you call us by name,
You ask us to follow you,
You so love the world you send us out to share your love with our words and actions.

We are sorry that we carry so much baggage we don't always see the needs around us.
Too busy to stop and look around.
Help us to stop... to breathe,

To give thanks to you...
For ourselves
Those we love.
Your world.
Amen.²

¹ Call to worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Lorna Dobson

We say together the Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

What does 'home' mean to you? Turn to someone near you and have a chat about what words come to your mind as you think about the word home.

Do you feel welcome there? Is home a welcoming place to you?

It can be really unpleasant to feel unwelcome in a place or situation. To feel like you don't belong. To feel like others in the room are unhappy that you are there or judging you for how you look, how you are dressed, how under-prepared you were for this experience.

What sort of things make you feel welcome? In your home? At your church? Turn to someone else and share some of those things with someone near you.

After you've done that – share some of them with the rest of the congregation – just shout out a word or two!

What things can you do to extend a welcome to people who don't normally come to be a part of our church? How can you be a welcoming person, even when you don't meet people face-to-face (for example, on the phone, or when you talk to your friends)?

Jesus was always working to make sure we understand that everyone is welcome – no matter where they are from, what they have done, or what their background is. Jesus tests and challenges us to be more welcoming, more inclusive.

Is that something you can do this week?

How do you need to be more welcoming?

Amen.³

Hymn:

483 STF – We are marching in the light of God OR

156 STF – From the breaking of the dawn

Readings: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

Hymn:

683 STF – Great is our redeeming Lord OR

518 STF – Father, hear the prayer we offer

Reflections on the readings

Greetings, beloved community!

Today, we embark on a journey through scripture that highlights an important truth for us as Christians in this place, in 2024: our strength is made perfect in weakness.

³ All Age Talk written by Tim Baker

We'll explore two passages from the Bible – Mark 1-13 and 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 – to discover how our vulnerabilities are not just challenges to overcome but are opportunities for divine grace to shine through.

Part 1: The Humble Beginnings

In the Gospel of Mark, we see Jesus beginning his public ministry. From his baptism to facing temptations in the wilderness, and calling his first disciples, these stories lay a foundation of humility and service. Jesus didn't start his work in grandeur but in the simplicity and struggles of human life.

Let's do a quick poll.

How many of you have felt, at some point in your life, that you were not ready or equipped for a task or calling? Raise your hand / give me a wave! [Pause for response]

Yes, it looks like many of us have felt this way!

Part 2: Embracing Our Weaknesses

Moving to Paul's letter to the Corinthians, we find him grappling with a "thorn in the flesh." Despite pleading for relief, God's response was, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." Paul then chooses to boast about his weaknesses, that Christ's power may rest on him.

Think for a moment about a personal weakness or struggle that continually challenges you. Now, imagine what it would look like if God's power was made perfect through this very weakness.

Share a word or phrase that comes to mind with someone next to you. *[Pause for sharing. Take one or two suggestions if you'd like.]*

Part 3: The Power of Divine Strength

Both Jesus and Paul teach us that divine strength doesn't look like human strength. It's not about overpowering or overwhelming; it's about surrendering and finding God's presence in our most vulnerable moments.

Let's do a thought experiment.

If your weaknesses were suddenly transformed into strengths, how would that change your approach to challenges, relationships, or ministry? Discuss briefly with a neighbour. *[Pause for discussion]*

Conclusion: A Call to Authenticity.

As we reflect on these scriptures today, let's embrace our full humanity – our strengths and our weaknesses. Our vulnerabilities aren't just obstacles; they are the very places where God's grace can most profoundly work.

So, this week, I encourage you to:

1. Identify a weakness and consider how it might be used for a greater good.
2. Offer that weakness up in prayer, asking God to fill you with strength.
3. Look for opportunities to support others in their weaknesses, knowing that we are all in this together.

In closing, let's say together, "In our weakness, we are strong." Repeat after me, "In our weakness, we are strong."

Thank you for sharing this time together. May you go forth this week, empowered by the perfect strength found in our perfect weakness.

Amen.⁴

⁴ Reflection written by Tim Baker

Hymn:

673 STF – Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? OR

660 STF – Called by Christ to be disciples

Prayers of intercession

God of all grace, we know that you hear us when we cry out to you.

We know that each of your children is precious to you, and loved beyond measure.

Oh Lord, hear the prayers of your people

Hear us and set us free.

Lord, we know that you hear the cries that must be made in silence,

Those who live in fear of an abuser,

Those who are persecuted for their faith,

Those who are lonely or isolated.

Oh Lord, hear the prayers of your people

Hear us and set us free.

Lord, we know that you hear the cries of those living in the midst of conflict

Those trying to protect their children in war-torn nations

Those whose domestic situation is marred by constant tension and fear

Those who work or live in hostile environments.

Oh Lord, hear the prayers of your people

Hear us and set us free.

Lord, we know that you hear the cries of the hungry and thirsty,

Those families who have to make the choice between heating the house and cooking a hot meal.

Those experiencing the worst effects of the climate crisis, and facing drought or crop failure.

Oh Lord, hear the prayers of your people

Hear us and set us free.

Lord, we know that you hear the cries of those who spend their days putting on a brave face,

Those who hide their pain from others,

Those who feel the need to be strong for someone else.

Help us to stand alongside all who cry out for you

Not to speak for them, or to assume we understand, but to remind them they are not alone

Help us to share a little of your love at the times when it's hard to feel your presence

In Jesus name, we pray,

Amen.⁵

We will now take up the offering.

⁵ Prayers of intercession written by Emma Dobson

Even as we realise that we have received so much, we are challenged to meet generosity with generosity. Stamp out the selfish streak in us, O God, that we might freely give of all that we have received in order that justice may be done, and the world may see your love.

In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.⁶

Hymn:

658 STF – A charge to keep I have OR
459 STF – Captain of Israel's host, and Guide

Blessing

Jesus the Christ is restoring the whole of creation,
Holding all things together.
Today, as we go from this place, we choose to play our part in that restoration.
And may the peace of God go with you, every single step of the way.
Amen.⁷

⁶ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

⁷ Additional prayers by Tim Baker