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**Vocations Sunday**

**Date**

**Church name**

*“When you get your, ‘Who am I?', question right, all of your, ‘What should I do?' questions tend to take care of themselves”
―****Richard Rohr, Falling Upwards***

*A hymn may be sung*

*The president may say:*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

**Blessed be God’s Kingdom now and for ever.**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be always with you. **And also with you.**

*The president greets the people:*

On this Vocations Sunday we give thanks to God that you call us all to

varieties of forms of service in God’s Church and in the world. And so we pray

for openness to the Holy Spirit, that each of us may discern the call of God

upon our lives.

Let us pray,

**Almighty God,**

**to whom all hearts are open,**

**all desires known,**

**and from whom no secrets are hidden:**

**cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**

**by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**

**that we may perfectly love you,**

**and worthily magnify your holy name;**

**through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*A minister says:*

‘I set no store by life:

I only want to finish the race and complete the task

that the Lord has assigned to me,

of bearing witness to the gospel of God’s grace.’

Let us confess our failure to live up to our calling.

Lord Jesus, you said to your disciples:

‘You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.’

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, we know that the harvest is plentiful

but the labourers are few.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you appointed us to go and bear fruit that will last.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*A minister says:*

Oh God, you have searched us out and known us,

and all that we are is open to you.

We confess that we have sinned:

we have used our power to dominate

and our weakness to manipulate;

we have evaded responsibility

and failed to confront evil;

we have denied dignity

to ourselves and to each other,

and fallen into despair.

**We turn to you, O God;**

**we renounce evil;**

**we claim your love;**

**we choose to be made whole.**

*The presiding priest says*

God forgives you.
Forgive others;
Forgive yourself.

**Glory to God in the highest,**

**and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,**

**almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*The Collect*

Let us pray for the ministry of the whole people of God.

Almighty God,

by whose Spirit the whole body of your Church

is called into a royal priesthood,

hear our prayer for all members of your Church

that in their vocation and ministry

they may truly serve you,

devoutly love you

and faithfully follow in the way of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God our Shepherd,

in every generation you call

ministers of your word and sacraments.

Equip them to preach the gospel,

to care for your people

and to show forth the fruit of the Spirit in their lives;

in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

*One or two readings from below or use some of the suggested ones from the leadership team.*

**First Reading – Exodus 3.1-15**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 27.1-11**

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
   whom then shall I fear? :
 the Lord is the stronghold of my life;
   of whom shall I be afraid?
When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,
   come upon me to devour me :
 they shall stumble and fall.
If an army encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid :
 and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.
One thing I have asked from the Lord, which I will require :
 that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
To see the fair beauty of the Lord :
 and to seek his will in his temple.
For he will hide me under his shelter in the day of trouble :
 and conceal me in the shadow of his tent,
   and set me high upon a rock.
And now he will lift up my head :
 above my enemies round about me.
And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary with exultation :
 I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.
O Lord, hear my voice when I cry :
 have mercy upon me and answer me.
My heart has said of you, ‘Seek his face’ :
 your face, Lord, I will seek.
Do not hide your face from me :
 or thrust your servant aside in displeasure;

**Second Reading – Philippians 4.8-9**

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*A hymn or song may be sung*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mattew, chapter five, beginning at the first verse.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Sermon*

*The president says:*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is,**

**seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,**

**and was made truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Prayers of the People*

Lord God of all,

over all and in all and through all:

we give thanks that we are called to your service;

may all your people be attentive and obedient to your calling.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be apostles, sent out to do your work.

We pray for all who respond to this calling to serve in your name:

for those immersed in the world, seeking to bear witness to the gospel in word and action,

for those whose service takes them to places where they face opposition and difficulty,

may they be continually filled with your Spirit, and empowered to follow your calling.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be prophets.

We pray for all whom you have called to speak out and proclaim the values of your kingdom:

for those who challenge injustice and apathy and untruth,

for those who campaign for the well-being of your people and your world,

may they be continually filled with your vision, and have courage in their prophetic calling.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be evangelists.

We pray for all whom you have called to share the message of your love:

for those who communicate the good news of Christ to others from a variety of backgrounds,

for those whose enthusiasm and love conveys your truth,

may they be filled with your love as they share the good news with others.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be pastors.

We pray for all whom you have called to care for others through prayer and through service:

for those who take care of any who are young or old, who are sick or struggling,

for those whose work supports medical, social and community services,

may their lives be channels of your love and grace.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be teachers.

We pray for all whom you have called to encourage adults and children to learn and grow:

for those who teach informally as parents, mentors and facilitators,

for workers in schools, colleges and universities, and for those who teach in our churches,

may they speak your truth, and help others to grow in wisdom.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

God of peace,
let us your people know,
that at the heart of turbulence
there is an inner calm that comes
from faith in you.
Keep us from being content with things as they are,
that from this central peace
there may come a creative compassion,
a thirst for justice,
and a willingness to give of ourselves
in the spirit of Christ.
**Amen.**

*The priest says*

Grace to you and peace
from God our Creator,
the love at our beginning
and without end,
in our midst and with us.

**God is with us,
here we find new life.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

*A hymn or song/s may be sung*

*The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.*

*This prayer may be said:*

Heavenly Father,

as we set before you these gifts of bread and wine,

bless also the gift of our hearts and minds

as we offer our lives in your service;

for Jesus Christ’s sake.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right,

it is our duty and our joy

at all times and in all places

to give you thanks and praise,

heavenly Father, source of all that is,

for you have called our world into existence,

and filled it with abundant life.

You called a chosen people as your own,

and led them in the way of holiness.

You called your beloved Son,

in whom you were well pleased,

to give his life for us on the cross,

and rise again in glory.

And now we give you thanks

that you call men and women

to equip your holy people for the work of ministry,

for the building up of the body of Christ.

Therefore with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your great and glorious name,

for ever praising you and *saying*:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

and as we obey his command,

send your Holy Spirit,

that broken bread and wine outpoured

may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends

and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,

his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,

we proclaim his death and resurrection

until he comes in glory.

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life,

help us to work together for that day

when your kingdom comes

and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,

gather us in your loving arms

and bring us with all the saints

to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,

for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Jesus Christ is holy,**

**Jesus Christ is Lord,**

**to the glory of God the Father.**

*During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.*

*Silence is kept.*

Giver of life and love,

we thank you that in this heavenly banquet

you invigorate and renew us.

Living in the unity of the Spirit

may we boldly use your gifts

to continue your work in the world.

**Amen.**

**Through Christ, and with all your saints,
we offer ourselves
and our lives to your service.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit,
to stand with you in your world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the servant,
our friend and brother. Amen.**

*A hymn may be sung.*

*The president says:*

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,

may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,

may the gifts of the Spirit equip you

to serve and worship God;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*A minister says*

Go in the peace of Christ.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Resources:*

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

[*https://anglicanprayerbook.nz/456.html*](https://anglicanprayerbook.nz/456.html)

*The Church of England – Common Worship*

*The Anglican Church of Australia – A Prayer Book for Australia*