

17th January 2021 – Morning Service

Jill Martin

Call to Worship

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

StF 20 – Be still for the presence of the Lord

- 1) Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy One is here.
Come, bow before Him now
With reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found,
We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy One is here.
- 2) Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour He is crowned,
How awesome is the sight,
Our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.
- 3) Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place,
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him,
In faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

David J Evans © 1986 Thankyou Music CCL No. 515642

Prayer of Adoration

Almighty God, You spoke: and the universe came into being: you spoke: and gave form and purpose to its life. At your word the men and women of old began in faith to discover your truth. In Jesus your Word became flesh, and your loving purpose was revealed in tangible form. Through him you called together the first disciples and enabled them to receive your Holy Spirit, moulding them into your Church. We believe that you speak still, calling people like us to your service. Open our minds and our hearts, to what you are saying to us now, that we may clearly understand your purpose and more truly serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord . Amen

Prayer of Confession

Lord we bring to you our prayers of confession. Because you know us through and through, you already know our failures, and our need of your forgiveness, but we believe that by naming them we open ourselves to your healing and we are confident that you are willing and waiting to forgive and lead us to a new beginning. So we confess to you the poverty of our discipleship, our arrogance which makes us unable to learn your way and your truth, the complacency with which we view our feeble efforts. We confess our lack of faith, and hope, and love. We confess our failure to be fully open to your call, and to be whole hearted in our response.

[Silence]

Lord forgive us, as you forgave your disciple Peter when he failed you. Call us again in your service: teach us, heal us, and send us to live as your disciples; for your name's sake. **Amen**

Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 The Lord calls Samuel

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, 'Here I am.' And he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.' But Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down.

Again the Lord called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.' 'My son,' Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.'

Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. A third time the Lord called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

Then Eli realised that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

StF 666 – Master speak

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Master, speak! Thy servant heareth,
Waiting for thy gracious word,
Longing for thy voice that cheereth;
Master, let it now be heard.
I am listening, Lord, for thee;
What hast thou to say to me? | 3) Master, speak! Though least and lowest,
Let me not unheard depart;
Master, speak! For O thou knowest
All the yearning of my heart,
Knowest all its truest need;
Speak, and make me blest indeed. |
| 2) Speak to me by name, O Master,
Let me know it is to me;
Speak, that I may follow faster,
With a step more firm and free,
Where the Shepherd leads the flock
In the shadow of the rock. | 4) Master, speak: and make me ready,
When thy voice is truly heard,
With obedience glad and steady
Still to follow every word.
I am listening, Lord, for thee;
Master, speak! O speak to me! |

Frances Ridley Havergal CCL No. 515642

Reading: John 1:43-51 Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, 'Follow me.' Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.

Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' 'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked. 'Come and see,' said Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, 'Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.' 'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig-tree before Philip called you.'

Then Nathanael declared, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.' Jesus said, 'You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig-tree. You will see greater things than that.' He then added, 'Very truly I tell you, you will see "heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on" the Son of Man.'

Reflection

1 Samuel moves from the time of Judges to the anointing of David the revered King of Israel.

It was a dark time with the people losing their ability to hear God's word.

Hannah, Samuel's mother put her trust in God to grant her a son, who would be dedicated to God as a Nazarite, living with Eli the priest, he would not cut his hair nor drink strong liquor.

Samuel went to live with Eli and was visited annually by his mother to be given new clothes.

Samuel slept in the Temple and was awoken by someone speaking his name, naturally he went to Eli as the only person who would call him.

Was he scared moving about in the shadows of the Temple?

Was he scared of the old priest Eli?

How did Eli react to being woken?

Not once, but 3 times he reacted in the same way making his way to Eli.

Eventually Eli realised that who Samuel was hearing was God and he told Samuel how to react.

Samuel was to grow up and anoint David, youngest son of Jesse as King of Israel

Mary and Elizabeth told by a messenger of God they would be blessed with miraculous births - John the Baptist and Jesus.

John moved away from tradition and preached in the wilderness, away from the Temple, Jesus baptised by John and identified as the Messiah.

Jesus gathered followers, "Follow me" Philip from the same place as 2 other followers, Andrew and Peter. Philip shared the news with Nathanael who was initially dismissive because of his home town but then with no further evidence than being seen under a fig tree Nathaniel declares "Rabbi, you are the son of God"

StF 662 – Have you heard God's voice

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Have you heard God's voice;
Has your heart been stirred?
Are you still prepared to follow?
Have you made a choice to remain and serve,
Though the way be rough and narrow? | 3) In your city streets will you be God's heart?
Will you listen to the voiceless?
Will you stop and eat, and when
friendships start,
Will you share your faith with the faithless? |
| Ch) <i>Will you walk the path that will cost you much
And embrace the pain and sorrow?
Will you trust in One who entrusts to you
The disciples of tomorrow?</i> | 4) Will you watch the news with the
eyes of faith
And believe it could be different?
Will you share your views using
words of grace?
Will you leave a thoughtful imprint? |
| 2) Will you use your voice; will you not sit down
When the multitudes are silent?
Will you make a choice to stand your ground
When the crowds are turning violent? | E) <i>We will walk the path that will cost us much
And embrace the pain and sorrow.
We will trust in One who entrusts to us
The disciples of tomorrow.</i> |

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, eternal God that you taught your people Israel that you are one God, creator and Lord of all; you gave them your commandments, and led them to discover your will.

We thank you that Jesus came amongst us, human as we are, yet perfectly revealing you to us; that he taught your way of love, and called people to live in your kingdom: that in fulfillment of his commitment to your will He gave himself up for us to die on a cross. We thank you that you raised him up in triumph

We thank you that the first disciples left everything to follow and become stewards of your Gospel. We thank you that you call us to be disciples too.

Help us as we follow Jesus, and equip us in the task of hearing your voice and of making disciples of all the nations. For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayer of Intercession

Listen God is calling,

As he called his chosen people to be a light to the nations,

As he called the disciples to follow Christ, the chosen one

Listen God is calling!

Listen to God's voice, calling to us from the world in the weak voice of the powerless, the desperate voice of the poor.....[Silence]

L: Saving God open our ears to your call

R: Help us to follow you

Listen to God's voice calling to us in the church in the joyous voice of worship, the challenging voice of God's word.....[Silence]

L: Saving God open our ears to your call

R: Help us to follow you

Listen to God's voice calling to us from within our community in the hesitating voice of the stranger, the trembling voice of the fearful.....[Silence]

L: Saving God open our ears to your call

R: Help us to follow you

Listen to God's voice calling to us through those we love in the struggling voice of the sick, the sad voice of the bereaved.....[Silence]

L: Saving God open our ears to your call

R: Help us to follow you

Listen to God's voice calling to us from within ourselves in the still small voice of the Spirit, the wordless voice of love.....[Silence]

L: Saving God open our ears to your call

R: Help us to follow you

Generous God, we pray for the grace to be your faithful followers and committed servants, in the name of Jesus Christ, who came to serve, to seek and to save. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the
glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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.**

StF 545 – Be thou my vision

- 1) Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that
thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and
the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence
my light.
- 2) Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 3) Be thou my breastplate, my sword
for the fight;
Be thou my whole armour, be thou
my true might;
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou
my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great
Power of my power.
- 4) Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise:
Be thou mine inheritance now and always, -
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart:
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5) High King of heaven, thou heaven's
bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Trad Irish translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne CCL No. 515642

Blessing

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.

May his love dwell in you throughout every day.

May his countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May his spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon us and remain with us always. **Amen**