

Worship at Home for Sunday 14th January 2024 with John Atkin

A prayer of approach:

Vibrant God, call us afresh today to a new vision of your kingdom, to a new understanding of your purposes, to a new knowing of how best to serve you, to a new appreciation of your presence with us, to a new awareness of all that you would have us do, as your people in this place and time. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

StF 594 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us.

Lord Jesus Christ. You have come to us
You are one with us. Mary's Son:
Cleansing our souls from all their sin
Pouring Your love and goodness in
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, You have come to us
Born as one with us, Mary's Son: Led out to
die on Calvary, risen from death to set us free;
Living Lord Jesus, help us see. You are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ. I would come to you
live my life for you. Son of God
All your commands I know are true;
Your many gifts will make me new;
Into my life your power breaks through
Living Lord. [LIVING-LORD.LORD JESUS CHRIST -
YouTube](#)

Prayer of confession

Dear God, when knowing myself causes me –
to doubt that you could ever want me as your
disciple: **Forgive me and help me to trust
you more deeply.**

to doubt that you could ever love me: **Forgive
me and help me to trust you more deeply.**

to doubt that you could ever accept me:
**Forgive me and help me to trust you more
deeply.**

In Jesus' name I pray. So, Generous God,
thank you that, in forgiving us, you give us
fresh energy to serve you, fresh
understanding of our calling, fresh wisdom as
we share our faith, fresh purpose as we live
out that faith day by day, fresh appreciation of
the gifts of others, and fresh hope for all that
lies ahead. **Amen.**

Bible readings:

**1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); John 1: 43-51;
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18**

Prayers of thanksgiving

We praise you, God of grace, for bringing into
our lives those who draw us closer to you,
those who speak your words of
encouragement, those who believe in your
calling for our lives, those whose testimonies
inspire, excite and move us, and those who
reflect your love, faithfulness and compassion,
day by day. **Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

Holy God, we feel overwhelmed and helpless
as we see and hear and feel the pain of the
Holy Land, Ukraine and Russia. We pray for
families there and all who are bereaved,
fearful, homeless, hungry and stateless. Who
are suffering because of the ongoing war.
Most want to live in peace and harmony with
each other but the violence prevents them
from living the life they would wish.

Holy God, all around the world there seems to
be pain and anguish created by political
tactics and desires, while people simply seek
peace and calm, home and shelter, food and
water.

Holy God, our national health service in the
UK is under so much pressure; both staff and
patients are suffering. So many people with
illness and injury cannot get the help and
healing they need. So many staff not able to
give the help and healing they would like to.

Holy God, as we put away our Christmas
treasures in our decorations box, we think of
those who have nothing to put away, no happy
memories, nothing to pass on.
May they find someone and something that
gives them a meaning and a memory.

Holy God, as we prepare for a new year, we
think of those who will be spending their first
year without a treasured loved one; for those
who will be stepping into the new year with
sadness, loneliness and uncertainty.

Lord, hear all our prayers for them and help us
to be alert to the needs of them and the world.
Holy God, bless all we have prayed for,

all we have brought to mind and bless us too we pray. **Amen. The Lord's Prayer**

Time to reflect:

God calls in many ways, so we need to be alert in order to recognise the call. This week we look at ways in which we might be called by our God, who is caring and understanding as we look at God calling Samuel and Jesus' encounter with Nathanael. We need to understand that God knows us as quoted in Psalm 139. The writer of this psalm reminds us that God knows us intimately. His knowledge of us is not only wonderful, it liberates us to live our lives certain that God is with us throughout our ups and downs, our every situation – protecting, loving, guiding. He knows and loves us completely. He also knows all those around us and the situations in which we can effectively serve Him.

Nathanael is called by Jesus at the end of a string of events around a group of people who know each other and who want to share in the Good News of God through the Messiah. One of John the Baptist's callings from God was to point people to Jesus. Andrew and John had been prepared by John the Baptist to follow Jesus. Andrew accepted John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and immediately went to tell his brother Simon, whom Jesus changed his name to Peter. Then in the same town of Bethsaida their friend Philip joins them who knows Nathanael from Canaan. Whom Philip tells all about Jesus and says "come and see" so Nathanael meets Jesus and becomes a disciple.

It is Nathanael who when told about Jesus said "Can anything good come from there?" If he had stuck to his prejudices without investigating further, he would have missed the Messiah! His friends telling friends not being afraid to talk about Jesus and what it means to follow him in your life

As we tell Samuel's story, how could it apply to our Church. In particular, how might adults hear from God through our young people? What is the relationship between young and old in our Church community? How can we both learn together how to hear from God? Might this be the way that God starts something new and exciting in our church's life? How will we all ensure that we not only

hear what God is saying, but how together we might put it into practice.

God says to Samuel "I am about to do something in Israel (Northampton) that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle" We are told that the word of the Lord and visions were rare in those days. Perhaps the people and their leaders were no longer in the habit of listening and looking out for God. It took a young person to be able to listen and hear. At a time of transition for the nation. Samuel was to become a trustworthy prophet and leader. So, what makes our ears tingle? How ready are we to hear and receive messages from God and act on them?

StF 662 – Have you heard God's voice.

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?

Refrain (except the last time) *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?*

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?

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?

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?

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. ([Singing the Faith 662](#)) - YouTube.

A going out prayer:

So now we go out with confidence in you; our loving God who leads us; You know our weaknesses and our strengths. Lord call us, guide us, and strengthen us in your service. **Amen.**