

Welcome
Call to worship
Hymn – O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder (How great thou art) (CH4 154)
Opening prayer and Lord's prayer
1 st Reading – Ephesians 4: 1-16 [NIV]
Hymn – Breathe on me, Breath of God (CH4 596) sung 3x
2 nd Reading – John 4: 1-26 [NIV]
All age talk
Hymn – Come, Holy Spirit, come! (CH4 594) *see note below
Reflection
Offering - Doxology
Prayers of intercession
Hymn – There is a redeemer (CH4 559/MP673)
Benediction
Grace
Close

Theme: Gifts of the spirit

Note: Come, Holy Spirit, come! (CH4 594) *to the tune of Crown Him with many crowns (CH4 459/MP109)*
– 6x verses

St Nicholas Church – 9th July 2023

Welcome

Call to worship

I will praise God in every moment,
and through every situation.

Through my words and action,
my life will pay tribute to Him.

Whenever the poor and humble hear of His greatness,
they will celebrate, too!

Come and lift up God's name with me;
let's praise His name together!

Hymn – O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder (How great thou art) (CH4 154)

Opening prayer and Lord's prayer

Gentle God:
we have travelled through many waters
to reach this place,
but share one baptism;
we arrive from different backgrounds and traditions,
yet share one faith;
we are, each of us, unique and precious to God,
and are members of one Body;
we have different dreams and doubts,
yet our hearts beat with one hope;
we are graced with different gifts,
so we may offer them in service to one Lord.

God in Community, Holy in One,
equip us for the work of ministry,
as we pray together with one voice,
as Jesus has taught us, saying,

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever.

Amen.

1st Reading – Ephesians 4: 1-16 [NIV]

Hymn – Breathe on me, Breath of God (CH4 596) sung 3x

2nd Reading – John 4: 1-26 [NIV]

All age talk/video

Hymn – Come, Holy Spirit, come! (CH4 594) *see note below

Reflection – Gifts of the spirit

Apostles – Entrepreneurs, explorers

- visionary pioneering, always pushing into new territory.
- Apostles enjoy dreaming, doing new and challenging tasks, change.
- Apostles ask: Are we leading the people of God to their destiny?
- Biblical examples: the twelve

House builder: Vision for where to build and what kind of house to build. Building where others haven't.

Prophets – people who speak out their perceptions. Often creative types, musicians, and artists.

- Prophets enjoy being alone with God, waiting, listening.
- Often Prophets are able to stand back from circumstances to get a clear picture of what is happening and therefore see creative solutions and develop a vision for situations others don't see. Prophets understand the times and what people should do.
- Prophets ask: Are the people of God hearing his voice and responding appropriately?
- Biblical examples: Anna and Simeon in Luke 2, Philip's daughters in Acts 21:9 were all known as prophetesses.

House builder: Will know what God's purpose is for the house.

Evangelists – Sales reps, politicians, PR reps

- One who brings good news and shares the message readily
 - Evangelists love spending time with non-Christians and often remind other Christians that there are non-Christians still out there in the world
 - Evangelists are not necessarily all like Billy Graham; they may be “people gatherers.”
- Evangelists know the Word and can make it relevant to non-Christians.
- Evangelists enjoy discussion and sharing their point of view. Wherever they go, they seem to draw others into discussion about Jesus. Evangelists are passionate about sharing the Gospel. They are not timid about their faith and seem to easily share with others regularly.
 - Evangelists ask: Are new people entering into the Kingdom of God?
 - Biblical examples: Philip in Acts 8

House builder: Fall in love with the vision and get others to love it too.

Shepard/Pastor – counsellors, social workers, nurses and anyone in the care-giving professions.

- Pastors spend most of their time with other Christians
- Pastors enjoy one-on-one chats and showing hospitality.
- They get burdened by others' problems and have a knack for speaking the truth in love.
- Pastors are good listeners and are easy to talk to and share inner feelings with.
- Pastors ask: Are the people of God caring for and showing compassion for people?
- Biblical examples: Barnabas in Acts 15:36–41. Barnabas clearly demonstrates a pastoral heart in his defence of Mark.

House builder: Make a point of caring for those that will live in the house.

Teacher – lecturers, trainers, school teachers

- The Teacher looks for ways to explain, enlighten and apply truth.
- Jesus' example—he was often referred to as Teacher or Rabbi. His “students” often remarked that his teaching was different because he taught with authority.
- Teachers enjoy reading and studying the Bible and helping others to understand it.
- Teachers ask: Are the people of God immersing themselves in Scripture and incarnating it?
- Biblical example—Apollos in Acts 18.

House builder: Work to the blueprints, checking specifications and that resources are used well.

Base and Phase gifts

Jesus with the Samaritan woman

Apostle – new territory – breaking the rules by speaking to a Samaritan

Prophet – he is hearing God telling him about this woman, things he didn't know

Teacher – he taught her about the eternal water, in way she understood, using the example of the well.

Evangelist – He spoke about God, the good news, he can't keep it to himself and is speaking to someone who isn't part of his group, sect, culture.

Pastor/Shepard – He cares for the well being of this woman, she is an outcast but he brings her healing

Through a simple conversation using only the things around him, Jesus explains to the woman about God. He didn't need to do a big event and speak to the town, once the woman heard she was the Evangelist and brought the rest of the town to hear the good news.

We sometimes equate telling people about the gospel and Jesus as a hard and complex thing, but it can be as simple as asking for a cup of water, caring for a person, pushing the normal boundaries we have set up.

God can use these small moments to then do bigger things.

Offering - Doxology

As we offer our gifts and lives in this moment,
may we become imitators of you, Gracious God,
who holds nothing back from us,
but is generous and gracious with all that is yours.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer of intercession

Let us pray.

Take us from where we are, to where you want us to be;
make us not merely guardians of a heritage,
but living signs of your coming Kingdom;
fire us with passion for justice and peace between all people;
fill us with that faith, hope and love which embody the Gospel;
and through the power of the Holy Spirit make us one.

That the world may believe, that your name may be enthroned in our nation,
that your church may more effectively be your body,
we commit ourselves to love you, serve you,
and follow you as pilgrims not strangers.

Holy God,

whose Spirit moved over the waters at the dawn of creation,
hear our prayers for all who thirst today.

We pray for those who are spiritually thirsty,
who long to know Your presence, but don't know where to find You.
We pray for those who are alone and without hope,
those who long to feel needed and loved,
those who are searching for meaning and purpose.

O healing river,
pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.

We pray for all who are physically thirsty,
who don't have enough water to drink, or feed their animals,
whose fields are parched, whose crops have withered;
those who have to walk long distances to find enough water to survive,
or who have to be content with water that is unclean.
We pray for those whose homes and villages are torn apart
because of drought or famine.

O healing river,
pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.

We pray for those who are thirsty for justice,
who long for an equal sharing of resources among peoples and nations;
those who put their lives at risk to protect streams and rivers and oceans;
those who are working to find clean water,
and make it available to those who need it.

O healing river,
pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.

God, we ask that you would open our hearts to the needs of all who thirst.
Give us courage to work together for justice,
to stand alongside those who are thirsty,

so that all people, everywhere, may live without want or fear,
and may discover the abundant life You promise to each one.
In the name of Jesus Christ—the source of living water—we pray. **Amen.**

Hymn – There is a redeemer (CH4 559/MP673)

Benediction

Go out from here and live lives worthy
of the one calling which we all share.
In humility, gentleness and patience,
speak only what is true and loving
and so grow into the unity that is ours in Christ.

And may God the creator reshape your hearts;
May Christ Jesus, the bread of life, sustain you always;
and may the Holy Spirit unite you in the bond of peace.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
...**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Grace

Close