

# Worship resources Trinity 1

The Ordinary Time, or Kingdomtide, season this year kicks off with a direct challenge for us to take the Reign of God seriously. The call to lose our lives for the sake of the Gospel sounds like the opposite of abundant life, but Jesus asks us to believe in this counter-intuitive way of being, to love the Gospel above all things – including our own lives – and to give ourselves in service, sacrifice and simplicity in order to proclaim the message of God's Reign through our lives, and to bring God's grace and love to the world.

May our worship give us the strength, courage and vision to embrace God's Reign and to give our lives in service of it.

#### **READINGS**

Genesis 18: 1–15, 21: 1–7

Psalm 116: 1, 10-17

**Romans 5: 1-8** 

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 9: 35 - 10: 8, [9-23]

Click here to view the readings

http://bible.oremus.org/?show\_adj=no&passages=%0AGenesis %2018:%201-15,%2021:%201-7%0Acw%20Psalm%20116:%201,%2010-17%0ARomans %205:%201-8%0AMatthew%209:%2035%20-%2010:%208,%20[9-23]

#### **COLLECTS OF THE DAY**

**Collect One** 

O God,

the strength of all them that put their trust in thee;

Mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping of thy commandments we may please thee both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **Collect Two**

God,

the strength of all those who put their trust in you:
Mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you, both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 1

God of the suffering world, We have heard of all you did in the past, we have been told of all you accomplished long ago - how you brought down tyrants from their thrones, set free those who were held down and oppressed, and left evil lying dead on the shore. We have come to know all these things from days gone by, and we rejoice in their glory. But where are you now, O God?

Silence Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** 

What are you doing in the present age for all who suffer hurt and heartache, hunger and want? How long must race be set against race? How long must there be wars and rumours of wars? How long must we endure the gulf between rich and poor?

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** 

Is it nothing to you that so many children are born to die before they reach the age for school? nothing to you that so many women are exploited and abused across the world? and nothing to you that people disappear without trace in the darkness of night?

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Are you asleep when lies prosper, do you not care when justice is denied, are you unconcerned when wickedness reigns?

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We cry out in the belief That you would never abandon your world, but are to be known at work within it wherever injustice is being challenged and wrong is being righted. Empower us then to be your way of being on this wide earth. Sustain the work of aid agencies, that they may never weary of well-doing. Bless the work of the peacemakers in Afghanistan and Iraq, Libya and Palestine. And equip those in authority over us with the wisdom to limit man's inhumanity to man, and the ability to persuade people to turn swords into ploughshares, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 2

As Jesus was ridiculed for sitting at the table of with tax collectors, so might Christ's church be likewise ridiculed. For courage we pray, saying, "Lord in your mercy," and respond, "Hear our prayer."

For Bishop —————,	that he/she might continue to uphold justice for
the poor as the first calling of a	all Christians.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For this world and its many people, that we might actively seek to live together in peace.

Lord in your mercy,

# Hear our prayer.

For the unemployed and those who are demeaned in their work, that they might

receive the respect that belongs to all of God's children.

Lord in your mercy,

## Hear our prayer.

For our own congregation, that as individuals we might learn to live more simply

so that the abundance of God's good earth might be shared freely. Lord in your mercy,

## Hear our prayer.

For all who come to the doors of our church seeking Christ's face, that they might have their hopes met in this community of faith.

Lord in your mercy,

## Hear our prayer.

For those who will go hungry tonight, that they might tomorrow be fed. Lord in your mercy,

## Hear our prayer.

In a world which honours wealth, help those who follow you, O Christ, to honour

the poor, for your name's sake. Amen.

#### **POST COMMUNION**

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts.
May our communion strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **PRAYERS**

To fulfill the ancient promise of salvation, O God, you made a covenant with our ancestors and pledged them descendants more numerous than the stars.

Grant that all people may share in the blessings of your covenant, accomplished through the death and resurrection of your Son and sealed by the gift of your Spirit. Amen.

Through dreams and visions, O God, you broaden the horizon and hope of your people, that they may discover the meaning of your covenant, even in the midst of trial and exile. Increase the number of those who believe in your word so that all people may joyfully respond to your call and share in your promises. Amen.

Ruler of the universe, you call us to radical loyalty beyond all earthly claim.

Grant us strength to offer ourselves to you as people who have been raised from death to life through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Faithful God, your love stands firm from generation to generation, your mercy is always abundant.
Give us open and understanding hearts, that having heard your word, we may seek Christ's presence in all whom we meet. Amen.

Redeeming Sustainer,
visit your people
and pour out your strength and courage upon us,
that we may hurry to make you welcome
not only in our concern for others,
but by serving them
generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

Life-giving God, heal our lives, that we may acknowledge your wonderful deeds and offer you thanks from generation to generation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Friends in Christ,
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers
as dear to us as our own needs.
Loving our neighbours as ourselves,
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions
on behalf of the church and the world.

Hear our prayers, God of power, and through the ministry of your Son free us from the grip of the tomb, that we may desire you as the fullness of life and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen. As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God, and guided them in the way of your love, so listen now to those who call upon you.

Move us to praise your gracious will, for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of death and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits.

We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

Hear our prayers that we may love you with our whole being and willingly share the concerns of our neighbors. Amen.

Creator God, you call us to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit through loving your creation and our sisters and brothers. Open our hearts in compassion

and receive these petitions
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.
Holy One,
hear our prayers and make us faithful stewards
of the fragile bounty of this earth
so that we may be entrusted with the riches of heaven. Amen.

We praise your abiding guidance, O God, for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, to model for us the way of love for the whole universe. We offer these prayers of love on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors, on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures. Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of mercy and healing, you who hear the cries of those in need, receive these petitions of your people that all who are troubled may know peace, comfort, and courage. Life-giving God, heal our lives, that we may acknowledge your wonderful deeds and offer you thanks from generation to generation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of salvation,
who sent your Son to seek out and save what is lost,
hear our prayers
on behalf of those who are lost in our day,
receiving these petitions and thanksgivings
with your unending compassion.
Redeeming Sustainer,
visit your people
and pour out your strength and courage upon us,
that we may hurry to make you welcome
not only in our concern for others,

but by serving them generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

God of strength and courage, in Jesus Christ you set us free from sin and death, and call us to the risk of faith and service. Give us grace to follow him who gave himself for others, that, by our service, we may find the life he came to bring. Amen.

God of power, you uphold us in times of persecution and strengthen us to meet the trials of faithful witness. As you delivered us from death through our baptism in Christ and the victory of his resurrection send us forth to proclaim that glorious redemption, so that the world may claim the freedom of forgiveness and new life in you. Amen.

God our Father, you sent your Son to us: grant that filled with your Spirit we may be renewed in faith, and inspired in hope and love, to spread the Gospel of your kingdom to all people; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who have gone to other countries with the good news of Jesus; when their work is difficult and tiring, make them strong; when they are lonely and homesick, remind them that you are with them; when they are uncertain what to do, guide them. Keep us all diligent in our prayer for them. Amen

When we forget you love and your grace. loving God, and live our lives as though you are not here, relying on ourselves, forgetting to be thankful; speak to us, challenge us, nudge us and help us to remember that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Amen

Christ the good shepherd, who laid down His life for the sheep, draw you and all who hear His voice to be one flock within one fold, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. Amen

O great Lord of the harvest, send forth, we beseech thee, labourers into the harvest of the world, that the grain which is even now ripe may not fall and perish through our neglect. Pour forth thy sanctifying Spirit on our fellow Christians abroad, and thy converting grace on those who are living in darkness. Raise up, we beseech thee, a devout ministry among the native believers, that, all thy people being knit together in one body, in love, thy church may grow up into the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; through him who died, and rose again for us all, the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Robert Millman 1816-1876

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Christ the good shepherd, who laid down His life for the sheep, draw you and all who hear His voice to be one flock within one fold, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. Amen

Blessed Jesus, Lord of the harvest, send forth, we beseech thee, labourers into thy harvest, and by thy Holy Spirit, stir the hearts of many, that they may be ready to spend and be spent in thy service, and if it please thee, so to lose their life in this world, that they may gather fruit unto life eternal; Lord Jesus, lover of souls. Amen. Robert Millman 1816-1876

O God of all the nations of the earth, remember the multitude who, though created in your image, have not known you, nor the dying of your Son, their Saviour Jesus Christ; and grant that by the prayers and labours of your Holy Church they may be delivered from all ignorance and unbelief, and brought to worship you; through him whom you have sent to be the Resurrection and the

Life of all people, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Francis Xavier 1506-52

#### **Words of Dismissal**

Christ has no other hands but your hands to do his work today; no other feet but your feet to guide folk on his way; no other lips but your lips to tell them why he died; no other love but your love to win them to his side. Teresa of Avila 1515-82

## **Alternative Blessing**

"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few."
I send you forth in the name of Jesus Christ:
Proclaim the good news,
cure the sick,
raise the dead,
embrace the outcast.
Freely you have received; freely give.
And the blessing of.....

#### **A Confession**

We confess the blindness that is not even aware of sinning; the pride that dares not admit that it is wrong; the selfishness that can see nothing but its own will; the righteousness that knows no fault; the callousness that has ceased to care; the defiance that does not regret its own sins; the evasion that always tries to make excuses; the coldness of heart that is too hardened to repent. God, we are sinners; be merciful to us.

#### **SERMON STARTER 1**

# **Putting theory into practice**

There is a story of a student who being so anxious to capture everything that his lecturers would teach him at university, when the professor in his very first lecture said, 'Good Morning', he wrote it down.

In Matthew's gospel there are huge chunks of teaching where it's as if Jesus is going through the theory of the Kingdom of God. But there are also large sections where it is clear that Jesus is putting into practice what He has just taught, and encouraging the disciples to do likewise.

Similarly in Romans, Paul has just given a lengthy explanation of justification by faith to the recipients of his letter and in today's reading which follows that discourse; he now begins to discuss what that means and what are the implications for the believers in their lives. Whether we take the example of Matthew or of Paul the message is clear. The Christian life is about hearing and understanding the work of God and then living out the reality in our lives.

Earlier on just after the Sermon on the Mount Jesus says that anyone who hears His words but does not put them into practice is like a man who builds his house on sand. Alternatively, those that hear His words and put them into practice are like the man who builds his house on rock. Putting God's word into practice is therefore tied to having a solid foundation in our spiritual lives.

Failure to do so would seem to indicate the opposite, that our faith becomes dry and academic and does not empower our daily lives. Jesus was clearly aware of the temptation the disciples would have to do nothing with the teaching but to reflect on the meaning of His words. But he wanted them to get active, with the dual benefit of strengthening their own faith whilst service God and their fellow men and women. He wanted them to step out in faith and be his active ambassadors in the world. He does not want his followers to adopt the Jewish trait of the time of dissecting the minutiae of the words He had spoken, rather then trying to live out what they meant. He sent them out as workers in the harvest. Did the disciples get everything right first time? Scripture would seem to indicate otherwise but they pressed on with the task, encouraged and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Likewise, Paul underlines that the concept of justification by faith, a key doctrine of the church, is not just an academic theory, it has a fundamental significance for our lives in that it gives us an eternal hope and future. A hope borne out of a restored relationship with God and an invitation to share in His glory. As we open ourselves to God's love being poured into our hearts, we are enabled to put our faith into action and step out in faith. Both Jesus and Paul know that the Good News would spread not just be people talking about it and debating its meaning but by the believers demonstrating God's love to the world around as justified, redeemed and empowered people, people who care for the world and those around them. And as the disciples and believers put their embryonic faith into action and stepped out into the harvest fields so they were encouraged as they saw God's promises to them fulfilled as the lives that they touched were changed. We too are challenged and encouraged to step out into our harvest fields, the places where we live, study and work, so that we can put God's words into action. As we do, so our faith is strengthened. Sam Cappleman

#### Meditation on above sermon starter

The opening verse of today's gospel reading sets out Matthew's perspective on the three key strands of Jesus' ministry; firstly teaching about the Kingdom of God, often in the Jewish synagogues; secondly preaching and proclaiming by word and deed the Good News of the Kingdom; and thirdly making the Kingdom a reality on earth by healing every disease and sickness. Three facts of ministry which would turn the Jewish and Roman world upside down and each strand of which critical to the God's Kingdom breaking through on earth.

How strange then that Jesus entrusted such an important mission to the disparate bunch of disciples we read about just a few verses later. The ambitious James and John, nicknamed the Sons of Thunder, not exactly the names of people you'd necessarily want on your pastoral team. Judas, the traitor, Simon Peter, enthusiastic but impetuous, Matthew, someone who had given up on his religion and people to serve the occupying Romans and make money through tax collecting. And so the list goes on. We all know when you're building a team it's critical to get the right people on the team and then get them into the right roles.

But Jesus doesn't seem to care. Perhaps He was demonstrating in His words and actions that the Kingdom of God really is open to all, and all are welcome to join in the mission of making His Kingdom a reality here on earth, irrespective of their background, personality traits, strengths or weaknesses.

#### **SERMON STARTER 2**

## Be careful what you pray for

'When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd'

Jesus looked around him and saw the crowds and he had compassion (GK. splagchnizomai) on the people. The word used for compassion is a powerful one, it means that Jesus had something like a blow to the stomach. It is a strong word, not something which means a mild pity, Jesus had a stomach churning response to the plight of ordinary people. Jesus understood that the people were harassed and confused and he hurt and agonized over the lost, the wounded, and the excluded.

Of course these words which Jesus spoke must have angered the religious authorities deeply. Jesus was criticising the religious system. When Jesus said the people were like 'sheep without a shepherd,' he was criticising the religious leaders who believed that they were very good shepherds and that the people didn't need anybody else. Jesus was angry at the lack of spiritual provision which was being made for the people and he was angry at the beliefs which were held at the time. The Pharisees saw the poor and the sick as those who were being punished by God for their sins, they should be kept away and excluded. Jesus welcomed the sick, the poor and the sinners and saw them as children of God.

Of course Jesus was motivated by the helplessness of the people into direct action and we need to be reminded that Jesus shows just how much God is not a distant unconcerned observer in our lives. God is distressed when he sees the lost and is prepared to give completely of himself, even to death on the cross. I am sure it is true that if Jesus had compassion on those people he met during his earthly ministry, then that compassion remains undiminished today. Jesus must be moved with pity as he looks upon so many people with deep spiritual need.

Jesus spent a great deal of time healing and making people well, that was an important part of his ministry to show that God did not want people to be ill. However Jesus is clear that the most important need is not to make people physically well, but rather to meet the great spiritual needs. In our society and in many places across the world, people have much better medical care now than 2,000 years ago. We can easily cure physical diseases which were life threatening only a short time ago. However, we delude ourselves if we think that people today are more spiritually satisfied, more comfortable with their place in the universe. For many people life is aimless and the pursuit of material wealth as a source of spiritual satisfaction continually disappoints and leaves people dissatisfied.

In this context we can see that the most important work of the followers of Jesus, is to bring the medicine of the Gospel to an ailing world. This is the greatest work which we can do to bring healing to the nations. The teaching of Jesus is Good News to a world in which there is so much emptiness and only the message of God's love in Christ Jesus can bridge the void which separates us from understanding the deep love of God for us.

Undoubtedly the crowds and the disciples who followed Jesus wanted their immediate needs met. When they were hungry they wanted Jesus to feed them, when they were frightened by the storms they wanted Jesus to bring

calm, when they were sick they wanted to be made well again. Jesus showed that he was concerned about these things too, but Jesus realised that the really important needs which all people have were not so obvious. People do not live on bread alone, they have a spiritual hunger which requires just as much attention if life is not to loose its real meaning.

This lays upon us all a serious burden, to recognise that the gift which we have in the Gospel of Christ is not ours to keep. We are called upon to ask God to send out workers to share the Good News, and we should be in a state of some desperation. The word which is used by Jesus (deomai) doesn't mean, "to ask," it literally means "to beg."

"Beg God for workers in the harvest."

As we beg of God to send out people who will help the fallen and distressed sheep, we should immediately recognise that each one of us has a part to play in this mission. This may seem an onerous task, it is not supposed to be. Jesus tells disciples that the harvest is 'plentiful' and it is surely a privilege to be able to share in the important work of God. The work which the disciples and all Christians are called upon to carry out, is not our own work, it is the work of God. We are told to pray, but it is God who will send us out to do the tasks which he requires. God will give to us freely, we in turn must freely give.

#### **SERMON STARTER 3**

# Sheep Without a Shepherd

The phrase, sheep without a shepherd, is reminiscent of many Old Testament passages that portray God's people as a flock neglected by its shepherd. Both Jeremiah and Ezekiel present 'David' as the future good shepherd of Israel. In the gospel reading we see Jesus being presented as the promised 'David', the Messiah and, as the agrarian allegory continues, He calls others to assist Him in the task of bringing in the harvest.

The disciples are to pray for labourers. Our instincts might be very different. How would we set about building a team to achieve great things? Would we pray for labourers or would we look to recruit great preachers, sharp thinkers, competent administrators, visionaries who could lead the church forward?

How interesting then, that Jesus calls us to pray for common labourers. What a great reminder that while God can use talented people, most of His work gets done by ordinary, nearly anonymous, behind-the-scenes, faithful

disciples. We know nearly nothing from the scriptures about many of the early disciples. Legend and tradition fill some of the gaps, but we have no way to judge their reliability. Most of the apostles were probably very ordinary. If we're not careful we might conclude that the lesser-known apostles achieved little, but that is unwarranted. Today, ordinary, unsung Christians do most of the church's work, and it is quite possible that ordinary, unsung apostles served both faithfully and effectively in the work of the early church.

After detailing Jesus' teaching on the sermon on the mount, Matthew devotes 2 chapters to Jesus' message of proclaiming and extending the kingdom through healing and wholeness. Jesus then authorises, commissions and sends out the 12 to declare the Kingdom of God is at hand and that through Him healing and wholeness and a restored relationship (peace) with God is possible. To declare that just at the right time, while we were still sinners, Christ died for all. Not everyone that Jesus encountered was hostile; many were inquisitive, misinformed or uninformed people looking for freedom, healing, wholeness, hope and purpose. They were like sheep without a shepherd. And there were many of them.

Bringing in the harvest was a labour intensive task. If not enough workers could be found for the work then some of the harvest would be inevitably lost. Jesus commands that we should ask the Father to send out workers into the harvest field of our society. Bringing in that harvest is a labour intensive task too, one to which we are all called. Called as ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

#### **ONLINE SERMON SOURCES**

#### A Great Time to Be the Church

The Rev. Dr. Patrick Keen, Day 1 <a href="http://day1.org/1099-a great time to be the church">http://day1.org/1099-a great time to be the church</a>

# "A Bad Case of the I-Can't-Help-It,"

The Rev. Dr. Patrick Keen, *Day 1* <a href="http://day1.org/1100-a bad case of the icanthelpit">http://day1.org/1100-a bad case of the icanthelpit</a>

## Weekly sermon source

http://www.laughingbird.net/ComingWeeks.html

#### The call of Abraham and Sarah

On the theme of faith journeying. "The Call to Abraham and Sarah is one of the most important stories to be found in the whole bible. "It is the foundation story of the Old Testament - of the people we call Israel and it is referred to over and over again in the New Testament where Abraham's faith - so we are told - is reckoned unto him as righteousness - and is held up as an example for all people to emulate."

http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/a-or10sn-sermon.php

## They who do not take up their cross

Scroll down - As the writer says this is a long draft from which others may pick out a few ideas. Servility and self-assertiveness are contrasted. Assertiveness in the style of Jesus is illustrated and advocated.

http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocA/42Sun13.htm

#### **CHILDREN**

#### Anna's hosannas

You guys know me, right? What if I showed up at your door one night looking like this (put on mask/costume)? What if I asked for something to eat, or even a place to stay for the night? Do you think you would help me? Today we're talking about how God sometimes uses disguises. Do you guys know what a disguise is? It's something you use to hide who you really are. The bible tells us that God disguises Godself as regular people - people who might not look all that special, might even seem downright weird. If God uses disguises sometimes, that means we might not always recognise when God visits us. That would be awful, huh? To miss God? The bible tells us that, if we don't want to miss God, we should try to be compassionate all the time, and treat everyone we meet with kindness. Even if all we have is a cup of water, we share that in the name of Christ. Whatever we have, we share it with those in need. Because that person just might be God in disguise!

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for blessing us, and calling us to be a blessing to others. We pray you will fill us with your love and compassion, so that we can always be generous and kind to the people in our lives. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

http://annashosannas.net/Ordinary-Time-8A.php

#### Who Do You Trust?

"Today we are going to play a game. The game is called, "Who do you trust?" I am going to choose one person to stand up here in front of the group. That person will choose someone to come and stand behind him.

Then the person in front will close his eyes and fall backward into the arms of the person he has chosen to stand behind him. Now, it is very important for the person who is falling to choose someone that he can trust. You wouldn't want to fall back and find that the person you had trusted to catch you has gone to get a drink, would you? (Depending upon how much time you have, allow one or more children to play the game."

#### The rest is at:

http://www.sermons4kids.com/who-do-you-trust.html

#### **HYMN SUGGESTIONS**

A Charge To Keep I Have

O Master Let Me Walk With Thee

Take My Life And Let It Be

**God Of Almighty Love** 

O Thou Who Camest From Above

May The Words Of My Mouth (Link to YouTube video)

God Of Justice (Link to YouTube video)

Here I Am, Jesus

Let Me Shine (Lord, In Your Life I See)

You Have Shown Us (Link to YouTube video. Song starts at about 1:27)

When Our Songs (Have Mercy)

All I Am, I Lay It Down

The Spirit Of The Lord

Rejoice the Lord is King

God forgave my sin

Come on and celebrate

Amazing grace

I cannot tell

City of God how broad and far

God forgave my sin

All I once held dear

Will you come and follow me

Forth in thy name

Thy hand O God has guided

Please commend this resource to colleagues - they simply send an email to <a href="mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com">churchnewsireland@gmail.com</a> with the message Passwords in the title