

Worship resources Trinity 2



So now we move on into Ordinary Time. Think of worship as intimacy with God. Think of the three movements of intimacy – listening (your story), sharing (my story) and time (history).

The first half of the Church Year can be thought of as the "listening" movement – God's Story. Now, this second half is the "sharing" movement – Our Story – where we focus on how to live out what we have encountered through the first half. As we do this year after year, we build 'our story', a History with God, which takes us ever deeper into intimacy with God. What a privilege this journey is, and, as we focus on hospitality this week, what a wonderful way to start this new movement in the year.

Sunday Bible readings from now on will focus on the teachings of Jesus about living our ordinary Christian lives. Whilst there might not be anything special going on, perhaps for the next few weeks this is the really important stuff, getting on with being disciples, living out the teachings of Jesus day by day.

May our worship lead us into deeper connection with God, and into greater Christ-likeness in our daily living.

READINGS

Genesis 21: 8–21 or Jeremiah 20:7–13

Psalms 86: 1–10, 16–17

or Psalm 69:7–10, [11–15], 16–18

Romans 6: 1b–11

Matthew 10: 24–39

[http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=%0AGenesis%2021:%208-21%0A%2BOR%0AJeremiah%2020:7-13%0Acw%20Psalm%2086:%201-10,%2016-17%0A%2BOR%0APsalm%2069:7-10,%20\[11-15\],%2016-18%0ARomans%206:%201b-11%0AMatthew%2010:%2024-39](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=%0AGenesis%2021:%208-21%0A%2BOR%0AJeremiah%2020:7-13%0Acw%20Psalm%2086:%201-10,%2016-17%0A%2BOR%0APsalm%2069:7-10,%20[11-15],%2016-18%0ARomans%206:%201b-11%0AMatthew%2010:%2024-39)

COLLECTS OF THE DAY

Collect One

O Lord,
who never failest to help and govern them
whom thou dost bring up in thy steadfast fear and love;
Keep us, we beseech thee,
under the protection of thy good providence,
and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect Two

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
Send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. [*Silence for prayer.*]

P That God would bless the Church, all bishops and clergy, missionaries, and church workers; that The Word and Sacraments be the centre of their life and ministry; and that all people respond with faith to the proclamation of the Gospel; let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy.

P That God would bless Elizabeth our Queen/ Michel our President, our government and parliament/s, and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy.

P That God would bless the poor and needy and sustain them in their troubles; that He would work through us to care for those in need; and that we would use well and wisely all the resources He has entrusted to our care; let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy.

P That God would bless all those who live in the face of war, violence, danger or oppression; that He would bless all those, who in their troubles, cry to Him for help; and that our Lord would bless all rescue workers serving in man-made or natural disasters; let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy.

P That our heavenly Father would help and strengthen our earthly fathers to provide and care for their families, that they might be examples of His fatherly love and tell their children of His mighty deeds in Christ Jesus, our Lord; let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy.

P That God would bless the sick and the suffering with grace for healing and strength; that He would bless the grieving and dying with comfort and peace [*especially _____ and those whom we name before the Lord in our hearts*]; let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy.

P That God would bless His people by baptism and faith and renew us in faithfulness to be together in His House around His Word and Table; and that he would enable us to seek out those who have fallen away that He may restore them; let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy.

P That God would bless us by the Spirit and prepare us for our communion in the body and blood of Jesus today; and that we receive His gifts to strengthen and confirm us in faith and life in Christ Jesus, our Savior; let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy.

P That God would bless us with trusting hearts amid the changes and chances of this mortal life, that we may not be overcome by fear or anxiety but cast all our cares upon the Lord who cares for us; let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy.

P That God would bless each of us with a grateful heart, that with joy we receive His gifts and respond with generosity and faith, returning to Him the time, talents, material resources, money and even our very selves that belong to Him through Jesus Christ, our Lord; let us pray to the Lord,

C Lord, have mercy.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION

Loving Father,
we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son.
Sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS

O God, we bring you our failure, our hunger, our disappointment, our despair, our greed, our aloofness, our loneliness. We cling to others in desperation or turn from them in fear. Strengthen us in love. Teach us, women and men to use our power with care. We turn to you, O God, we renounce evil, we claim your love, we choose to be made whole. Amen (*Monica Furlong*)

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. May the rains fall softly upon your fields until we meet again. May God hold your in the hollow of his hand. Amen,
(Gaelic Blessing)

We see you in the compassionate ways of those who accept us no matter how inadequate or different we may be.
We see you in the loving ways of those who love us unconditionally.
We see you in the sacrificing ways of those who give of themselves.
We see you in the forgiving ways of those who forgive our unforgivable ways.
We give thanks that you have revealed yourself to us and that the You we see in Jesus we can also see in those around us in our daily lives.

O God, you give us life, you call each of us into faithful service, discipleship in Jesus Christ. Open our hearts in ways that we might reach out to those- especially those who are so different from ourselves- and in so doing, may the world be transformed through your love, enlivened through our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

O Lord Christ, who became poor that we might be rich, deliver us from a comfortable conscience if we believe or intend that others should be poor that we might be rich; for in God's economy, no one is expendable. Grant us instead the riches of love. *(World Alliance of Reformed Churches) Peter Williams/WCC*

Give us, O Lord, churches that will be more courageous than cautious;
that will not merely "comfort the afflicted" but "afflict the comfortable";
that will not only love the world but also demand justice;
that will not remain silent when people are calling for a voice;
that will not pass by on the other side when wounded humanity is waiting to be healed;
that will not only call us to worship but also send us out to witness;
that will follow Christ even when the way points to a Cross.
To this end we offer ourselves in the name of him who loved us and gave himself for us.
(Christian Conference of Asia)

God of Justice, manifest in a carpenter's son, we pray for all who labour and toil and for those charged with protecting the conditions of their work. Grant to these stewards of economic justice an abiding and untiring commitment to the rights of all workers and to the protection of international labour standards

throughout the world. Amen. (*Source unknown, pp119 Harvest for the World compiled by Geoffrey Duncan © Canterbury Press 2002, 2004*)

God of the just weight and the fair measure, let me remember the hands that harvested my food, my drink, not only in my prayers but in the market place. Let me not seek a bargain That leaves another hungry. (*Janet Morley Christian Aid; pp149 Harvest for the World compiled by Geoffrey Duncan © Canterbury Press 2002, 2004*)

We shall not be crushed; we do not despair; we know you will not abandon us; or let us be destroyed: for you are the God of life, and we carry your life in us. (*Christian Aid; Hunger for Justice (ed) Martin John Nicholls © 2004 Kevin Mayhew Ltd*)

To the countries where food is scarce, mercy Lord, while there is still time.
To the countries where crops have failed, rescue Lord, while there is time.
To countries where people are fearful, security Lord, while there is time.
In the countries where we have plenty, set our hearts on sharing this time.
In countries where we feel in control, set our minds on justice at this time.
In countries where we forget those in need, set our prayers on Africa at this time.

Amen (*Peter Graystone/Christian Aid; pp 133 Blessed Be Our Table; compilation © 2003 Neil Paynter*)

SERMON

God's concern for all people

The story of Hagar from our reading in Genesis today is something of a rarity. It's one of only three or so examples in the Old Testament where God shows His love, compassion and concern for those outside the covenant community of Israel and the Jews.

The other two are where God sends Jonah to Nineveh and the healing of Naaman the leper in 2 Kings 5.

Strangely enough it's also one of three examples in Genesis where the story speaks of women, wells, fertility and the continuance of a kingdom and dynasty.

The other two are where Abraham sends his faithful servant to find a wife for Isaac and there is an encounter with Rebekah at the well and where Jacob meets his future wife Rachel at the well.

We don't really know much about Hagar but the story surrounding her seems to be a catalogue of manipulation, deceit, jealousy power struggles, deception and ultimate triumph. In other words it looks like an ancient soap opera from 2000 BC!

Significant Rabbinic tradition has it that Hagar, whose name is often understood to mean 'stranger', was 'given' to Sarah by one of the Pharaoh's of Egypt.

This is when Abram went there to Egypt to avoid famine and the deceit started as, for a time, he passed Sarai off as his sister and let Pharaoh take her into his household until he found out what was going on, when he sent Abram and Sarai away, apparently well blessed with livestock and possessions. It's no wonder the story of Abraham is riddled with its own ups and downs.

For all of her life, it would seem, Hagar had been of little value as a person but treated as a possession to be used, and abused at the whim of whoever seemed to be her master or mistress at the time.

Abraham and Sarah see how to use this to their advantage. Rather than trust in God who had promised them offspring, Abraham and Sarah take things into their own hands and manipulation of the situation by using Hagar as a surrogate mother and impose their wills on her to meet their own needs

Are we surprised when things go wrong? No. But how often does the world do the same? And when it does always seems to be the weak and powerless are the ones who suffer and are scarred and harmed? So it would be for Hagar.

But the situation then takes another twist and turn because after Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham in order that they could have a child and fulfil the promise of God, and once she becomes pregnant Hagar realises she is no longer valueless or of no importance, she becomes the centre of attention for a change. She has an identity, perhaps for the first time in her life.

Now she would surely have people looking after her and serving her needs rather than being at the beck and call of Sarah.

More importantly, she realises that in the society in which they are living where the ability to bear children is of huge significance and importance, she can look down on Sarah, who now counts as nothing in her eyes, rather than Sarah looking down on her.

It would seem Hagar revelled in this situation! So much so that Sarah treated Hagar so badly she ran away, only to meet with an Angel of the Lord who gives her the promise that Ishmael's descendants will be numerous and instructs to return to Sarah, which she does.

An uneasy truce would seem to follow until Sarah gives birth to Isaac some years later and all the emotions resurface. If it was a soap opera this would now be the second series where our reading today comes in.

Hagar is sent away by Abraham where she once again meets and angel of the Lord and is blessed and the promise renewed and the rest, as they say, is history. What a story.

But it's a story with parallels for us and our society 3000 years later.

Because for all of us there are times when, rather than rely on the grace and provenance of God, we manipulate the facts and the situation to our own good, often not thinking about what the consequences for others may be, however good or bad, whatever effect it might have on the lives of others.

Governments do this, but so do individuals and as Christians we need to both be above this at a personal level and stand against it when we see it happening at an institutional level.

On a personal level, all the time we try to manipulate situations we are decreasing our faith and trust in God to be in control. We undermine and dilute our faith bit by bit, and the corrosive beguilement that we are in control can control things grows.

Whether it's through our power, our influence, the odd word here or there, through our financial status or influence we undermine our trust in the power of God to be the God who is omniscient, omnipresent and omni-powerful

The more important we become in our lives, the less important God becomes and the strength of our relationship with Him is strained.

Whatever the deeds of manipulation, the story of Hagar shows clearly that the love of God exposes these works for what they are and breaks through into every situation in our lives, whatever they have been or how they have arisen.

For in the story of Hagar a God who cares for all people, irrespective of their backgrounds or personal history. Irrespective of whether or not they can handle what life seems to throw at them or make a mess of things

Hagar's self-worth and self-esteem must have been worn down to the bare minimum following her life of service and slavery. Every ounce of self-respect would have been beaten out of her. She was as nothing, a possession to be used as her owners wished.

And, as an Egyptian, she was certainly outside the covenant relationship with God as the Jews understood it. But God is making a powerful point here to the Jews. Those outside the covenant relationship are not worthless, valueless or invisible to God. He cares for them too, very powerfully in this case, just as He cares for those within His covenant.

He gives Hagar true worth, not the transient worth or value she may have had as a result of a somewhat sordid transaction to become a surrogate mother, but worth as a person in her own right and somebody who God uses, despite all she has been through, much of it beyond her control.

She might not come from the right family or nation but to God she is precious, as are her offspring. She may have been marginalised and rejected, suffered and been an object of shame but God did not care. He showed great love for her and watched over her.

We all know how easy it can be to look down on those who are not like us, those who are not from our 'tribe'. Those who seem to just make a mess of their lives whatever help and assistance they are given from the state or from individuals.

Those it seems to us who are just manipulating the system and the situation to their own advantage or those it seems are doing nothing to help themselves but expecting others to do everything for them.

So quickly we write them off as of no value and worthless, adding nothing to society, if anything, a drain on it. We get angry and frustrated just thinking about them.

But God does not give up on them, and neither should we. Through the example of Hagar God calls us to value all people, whatever the background and circumstances.

Because sometimes it's those very people that God uses, the ones we would not expect, the ones we see as worthless individuals, to extend His Kingdom and do His will.

And just perhaps He wants us to be the very people who reach out to them to show the same love for them as God showed for Hagar, so that they too can come to know the love of God that he has for all people.

If we don't, who will? It's a huge privilege being called to God's work, it's also an awesome responsibility.

SERMONS ONLINE

Facing battles with the promise of victory

The Rev. Canon Frank S. Logue, Sermons that Work, Episcopal Digital Network.NB - Uses the Jeremial reading.

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2014/06/02/2-pentecost-proper-7-a-2014/>

Confirmation: A Waste of Time?

Rev. Dr. Dan DeLeon, Day 1 - an interesting look at confirmation from a different denominational perspective. A good stimulus for thoughts. Excellent benediction quoted from William Sloan Coffin - a US Methodist scholar with Irish roots - a former pupil of the late Sheila Chillingworth, mother of David.

http://day1.org/5871-confirmation_a_waste_of_time

CHILDREN

Worshipping with Children, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2014/06/year-proper-7-12th-sunday-in-ordinary.html>

Acknowledging Jesus, Fran Woodruff, On the Chancel Steps

<https://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2014/06/13/acknowledging/>

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Praise to the Lord

For the healing of the Nations

There's a wideness in God's mercy

Forth in thy name

Praise my soul the king of Heaven

When I needed a neighbour were you there

Be still for the presence of the Lord

Tell out my soul *Tune Woodlands*

O for a thousand *Tune Lyngham*

[I Know Whom I Have Believed](#)

[Come Sinners To the Gospel Feast](#)

[There's A Wideness In God's Mercy](#)

[Saviour, Like A Shepherd Lead Us](#)

[Where Cross The Crowded Ways Of Life](#)

You Are: [Chord Chart](#); [Mp3 Download](#)

Everyone Belongs: [Chord Chart](#); [Mp3 Download](#) (*Link to Amazon Mp3 Store*)

[Your Grace Is Enough](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

[Glory Of It All](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

[Mighty To Save](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

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