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ORDINARY 19B

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A short act of worship for use in peoples homes

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Call to worship

Jesus calls us, here to meet him,
And we come – from afar or near, connecting together in this act of worship.

We have been richly blessed, and we come to worship the living God, and to filled again with your Holy Spirit.

Amen.¹

Hymn: 504 STF – May the mind of Christ my Saviour - [YouTube](#)

Opening Prayers

Loving God, we thank you for the way you have used the prophets from times past to deliver your message.

We thank you for the modern-day prophets who continue to bring to us the truth of your word.

Forgive us for when we fail to listen and pay attention, choosing instead to follow our own way. Give us the humility to recognise when we are in the wrong and deliver us from prideful thinking and behaviour.

[Pause]

Help us to not be too quick to act, but to continually look to you as the source of all that we need.

We are thankful that you are a God of love and forgiveness, and we receive that right now, here in this place.

Amen.²

Let us now say the Lord's Prayer

Readings: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 – [Click for reading](#)

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 – [Click for reading](#)

John 6:35, 41-51 – [Click for reading](#)

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Ramona Samuel

Reflections on the reading

[Today's reflection comes from Alice Young, the Student President at Cliff College. You can watch, download and use Alice's recording of this sermon as [The Vine Video for today](#) – NB: Alice's video includes her reading the gospel for today].

Two questions for us to discuss and reflect on today, to help us shape our journey of discipleship.

Firstly, how do you respond to the invitation for a 'deep and personal relationship' with Jesus Christ? Do you know something of that relationship? Do you find those words and images helpful?

Secondly, what would it look like for you to take a 'long-term' view? Are you someone who falls into the trap of society's glorification of the instant, or 'right now', and how could you tune into to God's slower, more lasting satisfaction?

[Pause. If you are sharing this time with others you might want to share and discuss your thoughts].

Holy God,

You are the bread of life.

As we worship and reflect, we draw strength for today from your love for us.

May we seek satisfaction beyond the short-term pleasures of this life, and connect with the spiritual base-note at the heart of all things.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Prayers of intercession

Loving and gracious God

We give you thanks for the gift of our voices.

For those whose voices make beautiful music, and express emotions and thoughts too complex for words.

For the parents and carers whose voices are a source of security, encouragement and guidance.

For the voices that offer us words of comfort and encouragement, that build us up and give us the strength to keep moving forwards.

For the voices that bring us new ideas and insights that help us better understand the world we live in.

For strong voices that speak up for justice, and fight for a world where no one is forgotten or left behind.

Today we pray for the voiceless in our world, for those who feel their voice is not being heard.

We pray for those who have been robbed of their voice by an oppressive government or an abusive relationship. May they feel the warmth of your love, and be reminded of their worth. May our voices join with theirs to call for justice and peace.

We think of those who use their voices to oppress and intimidate. May they be shown a new way to live and govern, and learn to do so with humility and compassion.

We think of all the ways in which we can use our own voices. We pray for the compassion to offer words of comfort to others, the wisdom to offer guidance and encouragement, and the motivation to raise our voices and stand up for what we believe in.

We are sorry for the times when fear has tightened our throats...

Fear of speaking out of turn and saying the wrong thing. Fear of sticking our heads above the parapet.

Fear of speaking out the ideas and thoughts that could change lives.

God, grant us the courage to raise our voices in your name, in the name of love and justice. May we be your voice in this world, seeking to bring your kingdom closer,

In Jesus' name,

Amen.³

Hymn: 277 STF – My song is love unknown - [YouTube](#)

Blessing

Go in grace, and know that you are called,
Go in love, to find that calling and pursue it,
Go in the Spirit of the Living God, to grow and learn and be transformed,
Seeking justice in our world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.⁴

³ Prayers of intercession written by Emma Dobson

⁴ Additional prayers by Tim Baker