



**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025:** 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Theme for today is “The harvest is plenty, but the workers are few”**

### Opening Prayer

Jesus is here among us now as we worship God together. We pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit we hear afresh God’s word to us, calling us to take the good news to all the world.

**Hymn: STF 407 Hear the call of the kingdom** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjRmIEhkHnw>

Hear the call of the kingdom,  
lift your eyes to the King;  
let his song rise within you  
as a fragrant offering  
of how God, rich in mercy,  
came in Christ to redeem  
all who trust in his unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the kingdom  
to be children of light  
with the mercy of heaven,  
the humility of Christ;  
walking justly before him,  
loving all that is right,  
that the life of Christ may shine through us.

*King of heaven, we will answer the call.  
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,  
filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim  
salvation in Jesus' name.*

Hear the call of the kingdom  
to reach out to the lost  
with the Father's compassion  
in the wonder of the cross,  
bringing peace and forgiveness,  
and a hope yet to come:  
let the nations put their trust in him.

*King of heaven, we will answer the call ...*

Keith Getty (b. 1974), Kristyn Getty (b. 1980) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

### Let us pray together

Creator God

Who gives us sunshine and showers to enable plants to grow, we praise you for the gift of nature? Just as the rain falls on the soil and produces green shoots, we praise you that your spirit constantly inspires and nurtures us. When we fail to produce our best for you and shrink from our tasks, forgive our apathy, and refresh our hearts with your love.

For all the times we turn away from you

For all the wrongs that separate us from you,

Forgive and restore us.

The Lord hears our prayer and pours out his mercy upon us. Amen

**Today’s Readings: 2 Kings 5: 1-14      Psalm 30      Galatians 7-16    Luke 10.1-11, 16-20**

**Hymn 404 STF God’s spirit is in my heart.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VTQvYG-bl4>

God's Spirit is in my heart,  
He has called me and set me apart.  
This is what I have to do,  
what I have to do.

*He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,  
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,  
Tell blind people that they can see,  
And set the downtrodden free  
And go tell everyone the news that the Kingdom of God has come,  
And go tell everyone the news that the Kingdom of God has come.*

Just as the Father sent me,  
So I'm sending you out to be  
My witnesses throughout the world,  
The whole of the world.

*He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,*

Don't carry a load in your pack  
You don't need two shirts on your back;  
God's workers can earn their own keep –  
Can earn their own keep:

*He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,*

Don't worry what you have to say,  
Don't worry because on that day  
God's Spirit will speak in your heart,  
Will speak in your heart.

*He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,*

**Reflection: Brought to us today by Elsie Warby one of our Local Preachers.**

The world is a very different place today, than in Jesus' time, yet some things don't change.

We hear about problems with staff shortages; long waiting lists, appointments cancelled, transport delays and much more. There has been a change in our attitude to work, people now demand flextime or a four-day week. I even heard recently that some children don't attend school regularly, they just go in when it suits them. This is, no doubt, largely a result of the pressures of modern day living and the stresses of the job.

Even in the kingdom of God, as Jesus says, "the workers are few". The work of the kingdom is important, urgent even, and Jesus had it well planned. His workers had precise instructions, which, if followed, would make their work efficient and controlled.

He organized the seventy-two to go out in pairs, ahead of him. There is no time to waste. They are to travel light and not stop to chat to others on the road, for it was a custom that there would be a lengthy ritual when travelers met one another. There was no picking and choosing your accommodation either, but to accept what was offered, and above all remember the reason for their work, to tell everyone, "The kingdom of God has come near."

Jesus had been sent into 'the harvest field' to gather in the crop. Just like a farmer, who has to gather his crop as soon as it is ready; Jesus had to gather in the plentiful harvest of souls.

The message of peace and healing must be spread at once. This particular mission was

clearly a success, as the seventy-two returned with joy, and they were rewarded with the commendation, not of their power over the enemy, but that their work had meant 'your names are written in heaven'.

In the church today, the workers are still few, but we are all called to 'serve the present age', and to rejoice in his service. We may not be able to travel from place to place to declare the good news, but we can all share his peace and love in simplicity and humility, with the people we meet in our daily lives.

**A time of prayer**

We pray for God's guidance and inspiration for all church leaders and communities, for a strengthening of faith and a more effective sharing of the good news with others.

Compassionate Christ,

You wept over Jerusalem; with how many tears must you view the troubles and conflicts in your world. We pray for peaceful resolution of wars, for comfort for the sick, shelter for the homeless and refugees, for food for the hungry and tenderness for the young and old in need.

Loving God,

We pray for those who are grieving, those who feel lost, those who are without faith. May they all feel the touch of your hand upon their lives, healing, blessing and making them whole in your love.

We pray for our own concerns, placing our anxieties at the foot of the cross and looking upwards in thankfulness to share our joys with you.

Accept these prayers and the prayers of our hearts for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

***The Lord's Prayer Our Father .....***

**Hymn:** StF 410 Lord, your church on earth is seeking <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnYUfhtz11Q>

Lord, your Church on earth is seeking  
your renewal from above;  
teach us all the art of speaking  
with the accent of your love.  
We would heed your great commission:  
sending us to every place --  
preach, baptise, fulfil my mission,  
serve with love and share my grace.

In the streets of every city  
where the bruised and lonely dwell,  
let us show the Saviour's pity,  
let us of his mercy tell.  
In all lands and with all races  
let us serve, and seek to bring  
all the world to render praises,  
Christ, to you, Redeemer, King.

*Hugh Sherlock (1905-1998)*

Freedom give to those in bondage,  
lift the burdens caused by sin.  
Give new hope, new strength and courage,  
grant release from fears within:  
light for darkness; joy for sorrow;  
love for hatred; peace for strife.  
These and countless blessings follow  
as the Spirit gives new life.

**A prayer of blessing**

May you find an opportunity every day to share the love of Jesus with a stranger, a friend or a neighbour, so that the kingdom of God on earth might increase more and more through the power of the Spirit.

And the blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those whom you love, today and always. Amen.