

We Gather to Worship God

Call to Worship

Minister: What do you do, when God calls?

All: Wake up. Listen. Act.

Minister: What do you do when God asks you to do something difficult?

All: Wake up. Listen. Act.

Minister: What do you do when God asks you to do something impossible?

**All: Wake up. Listen. Act.
Because, with God,
nothing is impossible.**

Minister: Even changing the world.
Wake up. Listen. Act.

**All: And, with all this living,
we worship God.**

Hymn: 53 Oh, greatly blest

St Stephen

- 1 Oh, greatly blest the people are
the joyful sound that know;
in brightness of thy face, O Lord,
they ever on shall go.
- 2 They in thy name shall all the day
rejoice exceedingly;
and in thy righteousness shall they
exalted be on high.
- 3 For God is our defence; and he
to us doth safety bring:
the Holy One of Israel
is our almighty King.

Responsive Prayer

Minister: Lord, you call,
but we do not always recognize your voice.

**All: Sometimes we don't listen carefully.
Sometimes we're caught off guard.**

Minister: Lord, you call,
but we haven't always taught others to hear you.

**All: Sometimes we stand in the way,
allowing our voice to ring out over yours.**

Minister: Lord, you call,
but we don't always believe our ears.

**All: Sometimes we believe we know better.
Sometimes we think you can't possibly be calling us,
or her, or him.
Forgive us, Lord, our unpractised listening,
our closed ears.
Help us to hear.
Amen.**

Silence

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God speaks to us today

Reading: **1 Samuel 3: 1-10**

Offering

Prayer

Hymn: 326 As with gladness men of old

Dix

1 As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onwards, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to thee.

- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy-seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
at thy homely cradle bare;
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Making progress

Quotation

*Hushed was the evening hymn,
The temple courts were dark;
The lamp was burning dim
Before the sacred ark;
When suddenly a voice divine
Rang through the silence of the shrine.*

*The old man, meek and mild,
The priest of Israel, slept;
His watch the temple child,
The little Levite, kept:
And what from Eli's sense was sealed
The Lord to Hannah's son revealed.*

~ J.D. Burns

Thought for reflection

Do old people know best some of the time?
or all of the time?
or hardly ever?

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Intimations

We bring to God our Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

**All: Our Father,
Which art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name.**

**Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in 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, forever.
Amen**

Hymn: 159 Lord, for the years

Lord Of The Years

- 1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
- 2 Lord, for that word, the Word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.
- 3 Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
- 4 Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
- 5 Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Closing Responses

Minister: O God, send your Spirit upon us

All: and light our path,

Minister: that we may travel the road

All: you have prepared for us.

Benediction