

PLOUGH SUNDAY



OPENING RESPONSES

Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishers
and sat in village kitchens,
be with us now.

You too were tired
when day was done;
you met your friends at evening time.
**Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishers
and sat in village kitchens,
be with us now.**

As we gather here
we remember
that as night drew on
you too gave thanks
you too would bless
at close of day.
**Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishers
and sat in village kitchens,
be with us now.**

You kindled faith and hope,
Came close to shed your light as darkness fell.
So, today as we gather here, we say:
**Lord Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishers
and sat in village kitchens,
be with us now.**



ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING



CONFESSION

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

No one who puts his hand to the plough, and looks back,

Is fit for the Kingdom of God.

When we are ungrateful for the rain, and the sun, the snow and the frost, in
their season,

And forget they are God's gifts to us:

When we are blind to the mystery of germination,

And forget it is God's handiwork:

When we are careless with the beasts,

And forget they are God's creatures:

When we are unkind to other people,

And forget they are God's children:

When we scamp our work,

And forget we are God's workers:

When we ill-treat the land,

And forget it is the splendour of God: O God, forgive us.

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
Amen.

 ALL THROUGH HISTORY COLLECT

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

 BIBLE READING

1 Samuel 3.1-20

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to

Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' ¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' ¹⁷Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.'

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



REFLECTION



WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME



BLESSING FOR PLOUGH SUNDAY

Blessing of the Plough (Tools)

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
for in your abundant care you have given us fertile land,
rich soil, the seasons in their courses.
You provide seed for sowing, water, light and warmth
to bring forth the miracle of growth.
You give us skill to work the land,
to prepare and nourish it, that it may be fruitful.
By your blessing,
let this plough be a sign of all that you promise to us.
Prosper the work of our hands,
and provide abundant crops for your people to share.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

God speed the plough.
God speed the plough.

Blessing of Seed

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
in your goodness you have given us this seed to sow.
In it we perceive the promise of life,
the wonders of your creative love.
By your blessing,
let this seed be for us a sign of your creative power,
that in sowing and watering, tending and watching,
we may see the miracle of growth,
and in due course reap a rich harvest.
As this seed must die to give life,
reveal to us the saving power of your Son,
who died that we might live, and plant in us the good seed of your word.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

By itself the earth produces:
first the stalk, then the ear, then the full grain shall appear.

 **WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS AND SCATTER**

 **THE CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

 **A TIME OF PRAYER**

 **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

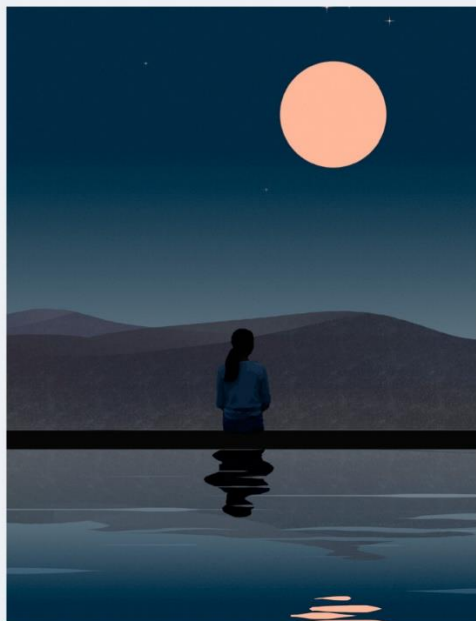
**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Amen.

 **WE HAVE A GOSPEL TO PROCLAIM**

ROOTS at home

Come



Jesus said that he knew Nathanael because he had seen him sitting under the fig tree. The fig tree is a symbol of peace, and it was common to sit undisturbed under its branches to meditate or pray. Where do you find peace? What helps you come to God in prayer? Perhaps you could go outside and find a sheltered spot by a tree, or maybe set aside a comfortable space in your house. Work out what environment best helps you to come, hear or see God. If you can't find/create the right environment, use this image to help you find peace and spend time with God.

See

Philip invited Nathanel to 'Come and see'.

We may not feel like we have the opportunity to see Jesus in the way that Nathanael did. But we can see God at work, and we can learn more about God from what we see every day. Choose a household object – ideally, do this in a group with others, or share your thoughts with others – and use it to explain something about the way you see God, e.g. a colander – God filters out what you don't need so that you are left with the good things. Share your object and idea, and discuss the various ways we can see God and what God is like.

Hear

Listen to the sound clip at vimeo.com/406653924.
What do you hear?

In a poll, 53% of people reported hearing the word 'Laurel' while 47% heard the word 'Yanny'. Different people listening to the same thing hear it completely differently. Think about, or discuss with others, how different people hear God in different ways. What helps you to hear God? How do you recognise what comes from God?



You will need: an empty container or jar, sticky notes or squares of paper, pencils.

Each evening, look back over the day and think of any moments when you heard God's call, or were aware of God's presence in your life or the lives of others. Write or draw a picture of what happened on a sticky note, fold it up and place it in the jar, giving thanks to God for that moment.

If you ever go through a time when God feels far away or absent, dip into the jar and pull out a sticky note to remind yourself of when you felt close to God.

WATCH

Watch the film *The Snowman* [U] or look at the picture book by Raymond Briggs. The snowman's life is in two halves – in the first, James shows the snowman his world and in the second, the snowman shows James his. They each invite the other to 'come and see'. Talk to someone about your ways of connecting with and hearing God and ask them to show you theirs. How are they similar/different? What have you learned from each other? (As this is the week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18-25 January – you may like to talk to a Christian of a different denomination/tradition.)

 THE CONCLUSION

The earth is the Lord's:
And all that is within it.

The compass of the world:
And they that dwell therein.

The Lord looked upon the earth:
And filled it with his blessings.

While the earth remains, seed time and harvest:
And summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease.

They that work:
Should work in hope.

 BLESSING

May God the Father,
who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds of the air,
provide us with all we need for life in its fullness.
Amen.

May God the Son,
who fed the five thousand and turned water into wine,
feed us with his life and transform us in his love.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
who hovered over the waters of creation and formed the world from chaos,
form us in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen**