

Bulletin for Sunday 6 February 2022

Good morning, friends. This weekend marks the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne - a time to remember and to reflect; and, appropriately perhaps, our readings have a theme of being called by God and caught up in God's story.

Let's pause as we prepare to worship..... and then praise God as we sing (as many times through as you like!) our first hymn:

Hymn: I will enter his gates (R&S 386)

Prayer: Holy God, beyond our wildest imagination,
creator of the milky way, and of the snowdrops,
we worship you in awe and wonder.....
yet you are close enough to call us to follow.
Give us the courage to say, 'yes'...
to allow ourselves to be caught up in your story...
Help us to be ready; to listen, and learn...
We ask your blessing on everything we do,
and on everything we give in your service,
today and every day. In Jesus 'name. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Isaiah 6: 1-8 and Luke 5: 1-11

Reflection: Two such different ways to be called! Isaiah was awed and dazzled by a vision of God's majesty. Painfully aware of his own inadequacy, he nevertheless agreed to serve. Simon Peter and his friends, on the other hand, were working at their nets on the shore, on a normal day, when Jesus gently turned their world upside-down. Some of you may remember singing, in Sunday School, 'I will make you fishers of men'. The image always worried me. Fishing clearly implies catching, and catching seems too much like trapping. I didn't want to be caught like that, and couldn't see that it was fair to go around catching other people, either. But reading the accounts of Jesus' ministry in the gospels, he never caught anyone in a metaphorical net, or trapped them against their will. It seems to me that what he did was to offer - firstly to the fishermen, and later to others - the chance to live their lives, with him, as part of God's plan or kingdom. They weren't caught, as a fish might be in a net. Rather, by God's grace they were caught up in (drawn into, encouraged into) God's story. Just as we can get caught up in a really good book or theatre performance. And rather than a net which traps and kills, God's story gives life. In fact, God's story is life - abundant life! May we **all** get caught up into it.

Amen

Hymn: Will you come and follow me (R&S 558)

Prayer: God of power and of compassion,
we pray for all feeling your call on their lives
and pondering the cost of that commitment...
We hold before you the Queen,
giving thanks for her faithfulness,
both to you and to her calling.
Bless her with strength and support.
We pray too for all those in need this week:
for our neighbours and communities,
for members of our churches who are unwell,
for our families and friends and those we worry about...
In Jesus 'name we ask all our prayers
including the unspoken prayers of our hearts... Amen

Hymn: Who would true valour see (R&S 557)

Blessing: May we say 'yes' to being caught up in God's story...
and may the blessing of God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love,
this week, and always. Amen

There will be a ' Sunday at Six 'Zoom at 6pm this Sunday - all welcome.

We all have a part to play in caring for each other in a continuing time of Covid - wearing masks, giving people space and having plenty of ventilation all help. Remember, some people may be much more vulnerable than others, despite vaccinations. Please also let us know if you have a positive Covid test after recently being in church.

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