



FAMILY SERVICE Set Free to Serve

Epiphany 3, 23rd January 2022

We gather

Words of welcome

A Gathering Prayer

**Just as we are, Lord,
we gather in your presence.
Help us to be the body of Christ
in this place;
to stand together with our neighbours;
to bring the good news to the poor;
to help set the oppressed free.
In your strength and in your name,
we pray. Amen.**

A Prayer from Churches Together
in Britain and Ireland for The Week of
Prayer for Christian Unity.

At the end

We offer him ourselves today and we ask
for the presence of the Holy Spirit among us.
**Unite us as we come to worship the
King, all glorious above. Amen.**

Hymn

72 - Bind us together, Lord

We listen

A Prayer of Approach

Today, Lord God, we come before you as
is our custom; as was the custom of Jesus
growing up in Nazareth.

We await your Word to us now, just like
those who waited while he spoke in the
synagogue after his ministry had begun.

May we hear your call and stand with him
and with one another, to serve freely in
the work you have given us. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

Luke 4.14-21

Jesus had been away in the wilderness
but it was time for him to return home.
Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit he
went back to Galilee, and very quickly
news about him spread right across the
area. He taught in the synagogues and
was praised by everyone.

Then he went to Nazareth, where he'd
grown up, and on the sabbath day he
went into the synagogue, as he was used
to doing. He stood up to read from the
Jewish Scriptures, and the scroll of Isaiah
was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found
the place where it is written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring
good news to the poor. He has sent me to
release the prisoners, heal the blind so
they can see again, and set the oppressed
free. He has sent me to tell everyone that
the year of the Lord's favour is here.'

After he had finished reading, he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down again. Everyone was watching him, and he looked at them and said, 'Today this Scripture has come true.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song

Sung by Aylesford Community Youth Choir

If you believe and I believe
and we together pray
The Holy Spirit must come down
and set God's people free
And set God's people free
and set God's people free
The Holy Spirit must come down
and set God's people free

Source: Zimbabwean Traditional

Talk

We respond to God

We say we are sorry

**Loving God,
we are sorry for the times when we
ignore other people,
when we are selfish and mean.
Help us to notice others,
to tell them the good news about you,
to be kind,
to think of the poor and forgotten
in our society,
to care for the blind and the prisoners,
and to find ways to show that we care
for others. Amen.**

God forgives us ...

Sometimes our vision is limited;
wrapped around ourselves and the world
as we know it.

Yet you, Lord, forgive us our short-sighted understanding.

Correct our vision, we pray. Open our eyes to those we can set free.

Thank you for forgiving us when we think everybody is like us. **Amen.**

... and so, we say thank you

God of all,
For my friends: **Thank you!**
For my family: **Thank you!**
For my teachers: **Thank you!**
For my church: **Thank you!**
For everyone we know: **Thank you!**
For everyone we don't know: **Thank you!**
For You: **Thank you!**
For your forgiveness that sets us free:
Thank you!
Amen.

Song

Sung by Aylesford Community Youth Choir

So no one told you life was gonna be
this way
Your job's a joke, you're broke, your love
life's D.O.A.
It's like you're always stuck in second gear
When it hasn't been your day, your week,
your month, or even your year,
but ...

I'll be there for you
(When the rain starts to pour)
I'll be there for you
(Like I've been there before)
I'll be there for you
('Cause you're there for me too)

You're still in bed at ten and work began
at eight
You've burned your breakfast, so far
things are going great
Your mother warned you there'd be days
like these

But she didn't tell you when the world
has brought you down to your knees
that ...

Chorus

No one could ever know me
No one could ever see me
Seems you're the only one who knows
what it's like to be me
Someone to face the day with,
make it through all the rest with
Someone I'll always laugh with
Even at my worst, I'm best with you,
yeah!

It's like you're always stuck in second gear
When it hasn't been your day, your week,
your month, or even your year

Chorus x 2

Allee (Alta Sherral) Willis (1947-2019)

Prayers

Response

May your kingdom come
through our prayers, actions and words.

Song

Jesus, you have called us:
Come, follow me,
take up your cross,
deny yourself and live.

Jesus, I am willing
though I am weak;
I'll trust you
and I'll go where you lead.

I will follow,
I will follow,
I will follow
where you lead.

Jesus, you have shown us
how we should live:
in sacrifice,
humility and love.

Jesus, I am willing
though I am weak;
I'll follow you
with your Spirit in me.

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Offertory Prayer

We bring you only what is yours, Creator
God, that you might use our offering and
us, the givers, for the building up of your
kingdom and the glory of your name.

Amen.

Prayers end with

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.**

News, Notices and Birthdays

Hymn

752 - Will you come and follow me

Blessing

God, you call us to be the body of Christ
in this place.
Side by side, hand in hand,
help us to stand together,
to stand with our neighbours,
to break free from all that holds us back
from making the world as you want it to be.

**As we go out, give us eyes to see how to
help and serve others this week.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the
Father, the Son and and Holy Spirit, be
with us, and those we love and miss, this
day and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to serve God, as one.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Offertory Prayer.

John Birch, posted on faithandworship.com

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