

What's growing in your ordinary days?

Gathering

Create a space for worship - perhaps with a small table with a bible, cross and candle.

*This week, it would be appropriate to find a **green cloth** or scarf to signify that we are moving into "ordinary time".*

Take some deep breaths as you gather your thoughts towards God.

Acknowledgement of Country

This week, we've watched the moon, huge and pink, rising over the ocean as it has for generations. Long ago the Wadi Wadi people walked this country and they too watched the moon rising, watched the tide ebbing and flowing. Today we acknowledge their elders, past, present and emerging and we acknowledge how much we have to learn.



Song: While morning still is breaking (TiS 104)

While morning still is breaking,
and day replaces night,
beneath God's care awaking
we thank him for new light.
We thank him that he calls us
to life and health anew;
whatever now befalls us
his care will still be true.

O Israel's guardian, hear us,
Watch o'er us this day;
in all we do be near us.
For others, too, we pray;
to you we would commend them,
our Church, our youth, our land;
direct them and defend them
when dangers are at hand.

Tune: Day of Rest (O Jesus I Have Promised)

O grant us peace and gladness,
give us our daily bread,
shield us from grief and sadness,
on us your blessings shed.
Grant that our whole behaviour
in truth and righteousness
may praise you, Lord, our Saviour,
whose holy name we bless.

You are our vine: O nourish
your branches, so that we
may grow in you and flourish
and ever fruitful be;
your Spirit pour within us,
and let the gifts of grace
to those good actions win us
that best may show your praise.

(Johann Muhlmann 1573-1613)

Prayer - Give us your grace
As, in prayer, we share our longings for our world
we seek your grace, O God;
When we define the good by law
and ignore mercy and justice

Give us your grace. (time of silence)
When we turn a blind eye to those oppressed by evil
and fail to loose their chains
Give us your grace. (time of silence)
When we allow powerful and wealthy people
To persecute, abuse or ignore the weak and poor
Give us your grace. (time of silence)
Teach us, O God, to see good and evil through your gracious, liberating eyes;
And give us the grace to follow you in paths of peace-making, freedom-bringing,
and evil-overcoming. In Christ's name, Amen.

(John van de Laar)

Song: As the deer (TiS 703)

As the deer pants for the water

So my soul longs after you,

You alone are my hearts desire

And I long to worship you.

You alone are my Strength, my Shield

To You alone may my spirit yield

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship You.

I want You more than gold or silver

Only You can satisfy

You alone are the real joy-giver

And the apple of my eye

You alone are my Strength, my Shield...

You're my Friend and You are my Brother

Even though You are a King

I love You more than any other

So much more than anything

You alone are my Strength, my Shield...

Listening for God's Voice

Readings: 1 Kings 19: 1-15,

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

Reading: Luke 8: 26-39

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me'— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

Message – What's growing in your ordinary days?

I wonder if you can remember where you were on the 13th February 2004? Or what you were doing on the 24th October that year? Too hard? How about what you were doing Thursday two weeks ago?

You might remember if it's a birthday or anniversary of some kind or if some significant event happened but the reality is most of our days just turn into a bit of a blur. In our

readings today we see that contrast between red letter days and ordinary days. Jesus and the disciples- the man possessed - the swine being destroyed- this is a story that is going to live on in the community... do you remember when... a bit like when Cyclone Alison hit Kiama in 1974. This event is going to define this man's story and he knows it. He's ready to set out and follow Jesus anywhere. You've probably seen that happen, people who want to rush off and follow the excitement. But Jesus response might be a bit of a surprise- he tells the man to go back to his home, to the people he knows, to the ordinary days of living and to share what he knows about Jesus with those he meets.

Elijah too knew something about red letter days! His story is littered with incredible experiences, miracles, arguments and here we see what happens next - facing up to the ordinary days.

Our journey with God is a bit like that too. During the year we come to those red letter days - Christmas, Easter, Lent, Advent and often that's when we find out something more about who we are, who God is, what and who we are being called to be. But change doesn't happen overnight, it takes time for something to take root in our hearts and then grow and become something new.

We are in the part of the year that's often referred to as Ordinary Time. It comes from the idea of counting the days between those red letter celebrations and it was seen as the time when God's word was taking root in your heart.

What has God been doing in your heart and life over the last few months? Has there been a message that really touched you? A song you've heard that stayed with you? A word from one of the readings? Sometimes when that happens, we notice it and then just keep going - we don't actually stop and take time to listen. That's what Ordinary Time is for- to allow those tiny thoughts and stirrings the space they need.

So what are the seeds that have been sowed in your heart and life, and what are you doing to give them an opportunity to grow and become something wonderful?

Prayer: Still a Small Voice

Word of God,
Spoken in Christ,
Breathed through the Spirit,
To many of us you are but a still small voice.
We are yet to really listen and attend to your speaking.
You are but still a small voice,
Too often drowned out by the competing calls we choose to pay heed to
Too often subsumed in the chaos of the hustle and bustle of our everyday
Too often selectively silenced or sidelined due to our fear of the cost of your call.
Teach us to better listen well
To listen first for your still small voice,
Then build our listening so that we hear you around us
That we might perceive your call to loving action
In the cry for justice of the oppressed
In the wail of suffering from victims of war
In the silence of those who struggle alone
In all its forms where need is screaming.
May we hear your lament
At the warping bias of our media
At the hollow pontificating of our politicians
At our distraction by meaningless advertising

At all our selfish short-sighted foolishness.
Speak, Word of God,
Awaken our attention,
Lead us into contemplation,
Provoke us to reflection,
That we might be who you call us to be,
And do what you call us to do,
Living how you call us to live.
Speak, Word of God,
Maybe as yet a still small voice
But growing within us,
As our guide and direction,
As it should be.
Amen.

(Source: Jon Humphries)

Responding

Song: Moment by moment (Whittle)

Verses from Living for Jesus (Chisholm)

Living for Jesus a life that is true,
Striving to please Him in all that I do;
Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free,
This is the pathway of blessing for me.

*Moment by moment I'm kept in His love,
Moment by moment I've life from above
Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine.*

Living for Jesus wherever I am,
Doing each duty in His holy name;
Willing to suffer affliction and loss,
Deeming each trial a part of my cross.
Moment by moment I'm kept in His love...

Living for Jesus through earth's little while,
My dearest treasure, the light of His smile;
Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem,
Bringing the weary to find rest in Him.
Moment by moment I'm kept in His love...

Offering & Dedication

We make our offerings, small and large,
with the hope and confidence that all we do,
all we offer,
all we say,
all we think,
and all we hope
will take root in this world and be the source of new expressions
of God's love,
of God's justice,
of God's character,
of God's mission,
and of God's reign.
May God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven
through us,
alongside us,
despite us,
and for us. Amen.

(adapted from a prayer on Mustard Seed)

Prayer for Others

This is a simple prayer where symbolic silences are offered as prayers for the world.

Creating God, may all our words be filled with silence:

a space broad enough to pray for the world's needs, and a place deep enough to meet you in it (*pause*).

We place a silence here for all conflict,
where words can never heal,
only the witness of peace-filled living,
and the touch of love. (*a moment of silence*).

We place a silence here for all hurt, where words can never repair,
only the witness of grace-filled living, and the touch of love. (*a moment of silence*).

We place a silence here for all injustice, where words can never break through, only the witness of truth-filled living, and the touch of love. (*a moment of silence*).

We place a silence here for all victims, where words can never say sorry,
only the witness of compassion-filled living, and the touch of love. (*a moment of silence*).

We place a silence here for all people, where words are confusing and confused, and only the witness of patient living, and the touch of love, speaks. (*a moment of silence*).

Creating God,

may all our words be filled with silence:

space broad enough to pray what the world needs,
and a place deep enough to meet you in it. Amen.

Seasons of the Spirit, Resources for Sunday 19 June 2022

Sending

Song: Beauty for brokenness (TiS 690)

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair
Lord in Your suff'ring, this is our prayer:
Bread for the children,
Justice, joy, peace,
Sunrise to sunset,
Your kingdom increase.

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills,
Land for the dispossessed,
Rights for the weak,
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray.
Melt our cold hearts,
Let tears fall like rain,
Come change our love
From a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
Cities for sanctu'ry, freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing fields,

Scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness,
His cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,
Plundered and poisoned, our future our dreams.

Lord end our madness,
Carelessness greed,
Make us content with the things that we need.

God of the poor, friend of the weak...

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
Until Your justice burns brightly again
Until the nations
Learn of Your ways
Seek Your salvation and bring You their praise.

God of the poor, friend of the weak...

Graham Kendrick

Benediction

Go out into the week, taking notice of those ordinary days, listening for what God is doing in your life, nurturing the seeds of love being planted and remember that you are the loved child of the Father who dreamed you into being, you are so precious that Jesus gave His life for you and that the Holy Spirit who hovered over the beginning of all life continues to breathe life and grace into every day of your life and being.

Marion Haigh
19 June 2022

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

'catholic' means 'universal'