



‘Worship at home’ Sunday June 2nd 2024



We now move into “Ordinary time” in the Church’s liturgical calendar. This is the time after Pentecost and it stretches until late November, ending with the feast of the Reign of Christ and the beginning of Advent. This time tells the stories of our faith, including narratives from the Hebrew Scriptures, stories of Jesus’ life and mission, and the writings of the epistles. It can be seen as a season of growing in understanding of scripture, in discipleship, and in faith. We are encouraged to be open to the ongoing work of the Spirit of God in our “ordinary”, everyday lives.

A Prayer for Ordinary Time

Creator Redeemer Sustainer God,
how extraordinary is your “ordinary time”;
how uncommon is the commonplace in your Kingdom.
The mundane is made miraculous, full of holy opportunities;
the smallest joy a jubilee!



Created anew may we grow tall and “grace-full” in your likeness;
redeemed by your sacrifice may we come to know
the depths of your love;
sustained by your Spirit may we be steadfast and shining
in your service.

We humbly ask that you continue to bless us with all we need
for the living of these days— these wondrous ordinary days—
that our everyday lives may be gifted
to experience the vitality of Christian community,
to share your message of hope,
reaching out to the poor and hurting,
and bringing glory and honour to you, our God.

Amen.

~ written by Deborah Harris

from *Sacred Seasons, Pentecost/Ordinary Time* 1999

<http://simpleliving.startlogic.com/indexoth.php?place=archives/Articles/WorshipAltItems3.php>

Samuel was one of the first prophets of Israel, given by his mother Hannah to be raised in the temple by the priest Eli. As a child, Samuel heard God calling him in the darkness of night.



1 Samuel 3:1-10

In those days, when the boy Samuel was serving the Lord under the direction of Eli, there were very few messages from the Lord, and visions from him were quite rare. One night Eli, who was now almost blind, was sleeping in his own room; Samuel was sleeping in the sanctuary, where the sacred Covenant Box was. Before dawn, while the lamp was still burning, the Lord called Samuel. He answered, "Yes, sir!" and ran to Eli and said, "You called me, and here I am." But Eli answered, "I didn't call you; go back to bed." So Samuel went back to bed. The Lord called Samuel again. The boy did not know that it was the Lord, because

the Lord had never spoken to him before. So he got up, went to Eli, and said, "You called me, and here I am." But Eli answered, "My son, I didn't call you; go back to bed." The Lord called Samuel a third time; he got up, went to Eli, and said, "You called me, and here I am." Then Eli realized that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, so he said to him, "Go back to bed; and if he calls you again, say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" " So Samuel went back to bed. The Lord came and stood there, and called as he had before, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak; your servant is listening."

Good News Bible

How do you recognise the Spirit of God at work in your life?

**Have you ever experienced a deep prompting
such as Samuel did?**

You may not have heard God as an audible voice, however you may have had the experience of reading something in the Bible and knowing it was meant for you, or feeling a deep inner prompting, or knowing God's close comfort in a time of struggle. God is present with us in our ordinary lives.



The One whose heart is searching

Samuel on his bed beside the lamp,
its flame describing in slow pulses
the flickering hope
of a lonely, quiet yearning;
the hollow stillness
like a silent pond where
a searching voice could be heard like a dropping pebble.
And in the dark and in the emptiness
the One who is doing the calling,
the One whose heart is searching,
is the unheard God.

You and me on our beds, our couches,
you and me by our lamps.
You and me under spreading trees,
or peering at the sky through windows;
you and me at our office desks,
fingering the plastic of keyboards;
you and me in our living-rooms, or sitting at our kitchen tables;
you and me, so yearning for hope,
so longing for meaning, truth, or joy –
may we become aware of the One who is searching for us;
awake to the One who knows and calls our names
longing for us to listen:
the God of promise and of invitation.

<https://earth2earth.wordpress.com/2015/01/12/poem-for-the-sunday-lectionary-epiphany-2-yr-b/>

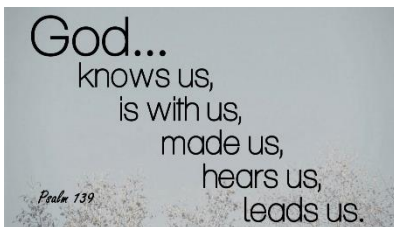
Psalm 139 also reminds us of God's closeness and intimacy.

Psalm 139:1-6

Lord, you have examined me and you know me. You know everything I do; from far away you understand all my thoughts. You see me, whether I am working or resting; you know all my actions. Even before I speak,

you already know what I will say. You are all around me on every side; you protect me with your power. Your knowledge of me is too deep; it is beyond my understanding.

Good News Bible



“With each passage, the lectionary this week presents us with a God who calls to us, seeks us out, draws close to us, inhabits us. Again and again the word *know* appears, its repetition pressing upon us how

serious God is about wanting to know us, and us to know God.

This God who calls to us, who fashions us within the womb, who inhabits our own bodies, who recognizes us in the midst of our daily lives: for those of us who need some breathing room in our lives, this God can fairly overwhelm. Do we want to be this sought, this known from the inside out?

Yet the God we see in these passages is not an intruder invading our lives by stealth or by force. Nor—though too many have absorbed such an image—is God's persistent presence with us a form of surveillance designed to keep track of everything we do wrong. Somehow, this God who pervades all of creation, down to our very cells, manages to offer a spacious hospitality that calls to us but does not confine us; that continually invites but will not force us; that simply asks us to see and hear and know the One who is ever in our midst and in our own selves.

This week, this day, how are you listening? Where are you looking? What holy space are you making for God in yourself? How are you opening yourself to the God who wants to know and be known by you?”