

The Vine at Home

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year B

Call to worship

Generous God,
We come to you knowing that we need your grace again,
Your generosity again,
Your love again.
We come to you, just as we are, knowing that we are accepted.
Amen.¹

Hymn: 317 StF, 74 H&P – At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow -

Opening Prayers

O God, we welcome you this day,
Let us worship and praise your name together.

We come with the burdens and worries of this past week,
May we as a community shoulder them together.

And as we gather, we are one family,
We are siblings united by the love of Jesus and called to emulate this love in
our daily lives.

Come let us be joyful in the Lord,
Hallelujah,

Amen.²

Let us now say the Lord's Prayer

Readings: Job 1:1, 2:1-10

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

Reflections on the reading

What are you being called to?

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Tim Annan-Hood

One reading of Jesus' ministry and the driving message of the New Testament is to see it all as pointing towards togetherness and unity, seeking to overcome the divisions in human societies.

Two questions for you to consider:

- How can you get involved in Paul's invitation in Colossians to 'hold together' with all of creation?
- In what ways are you a barrier to togetherness (i.e. what of your prejudices, actions or opinions are including others)?

In order to live out the hope that is woven throughout the New Testament, that we can unite in God's love, we all have a part to play. We all have barriers to break down, prejudices to identify in ourselves and work on, institutions we need to hold to account for maintaining exclusivity and injustice.

Today, we are inviting you to commit to doing one thing. There are lots of things that need doing, but doing nothing is the most dangerous and unhelpful 'solution'. So today, you are invited simply to think of one thing you could do and/or change to help increase the spirit of togetherness, of community in your life.

You might like to write down your planned action, and stick it somewhere where you will see it everyday.

Let us pray.

God of love, you invite us into your hope for a better, safe, more unified world. As we celebrate our diversity and our difference, may we find unity in your love for us, and our love for you.

And may we use that unity to make a world, and a church, where all are welcome.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of intercession

Let us open our hearts and be vulnerable before Jesus as we share what is on our hearts.

"I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises."

Though we are strengthened through Jesus, there are times this past week where we could not sing your praises.

In this world it is hard to be joyful when there are those around us hurting. Those mourning loved ones. Those fighting a daily struggle against an unjust system. Those struggling to put food on the table. Those going through divorce. Those whose families are separated. Those who see images of war, famine and terror and cry “Where are you God!”

In this moment, let us share what is heavy on our hearts.

(Time of silence or a time to share prayer concerns)

When one of us is in pain, we are all in pain, and Jesus weeps with those who weep. As siblings we bring these prayers before you, Jesus, that you may be with them in times of hardship and sorrow.

Let us bring these all before God,

Amen.³

Hymn: 367 STF – There is a new song

Blessing

I want to live in a world more like your kingdom,
And less like the kingdom of greed we find ourselves in.
No longer the kingdom of comfort,
But forever, the Kingdom of heaven.

Be at work in me, Lord God, by your Spirit,

Amen.⁴

³ Prayers of intercession written by Tim Annan-Hood

⁴ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

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