

starters for Sunday

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

12 July 2015

The Mission and Discipleship Council would like to thank Rev Andrea Price, Associate Minister of London: St Columba's for her thoughts on the seventh Sunday after Pentecost.

Contents

2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19.....	2
Psalm 24	2
Amos 7: 7-15.....	2
Psalm 85: 8-13.....	3
Ephesians 1: 3-14.....	3
Mark 6: 14-29	3
Sermon Ideas	3
Prayers.....	4
Time with Children.....	6
Musical Suggestions	6
Additional Resources.....	7



Quick Guide...

Helping people prepare for reading the Bible in worship can make a real difference. Overcoming nerves, reading in ways suitable to the text, speaking clearly etc.

You may wish to email these three links to the people reading Scripture on Sunday to support them in their involvement in worship: [Managing your nerves](#); [Creative readings](#); [Worship at the Lectern](#)

[2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19](#)

David has conquered the land, including Jerusalem, which is going to be Israel's capital. The ark – symbolic kist of God's presence containing the tablets with the 10 commandments – is now being transferred into Jerusalem, where it will live in the tent of presence until the temple has been built. The fearful power of God's presence is shown in the intermediate verses (6-12a) by the death of irreverent Uzzah and the positive effect the mere presence of the ark has on the family hosting the ark for three months.

The whole host of Israel celebrate in triumphal procession as the ark makes its way into Jerusalem. It is a great song and dance! David is lightly clad with a linen ephod, which seems to have been like a tunic. He leaps and dances with all his might and his wife Michal despises him for it! Did he not show the dignity and gravitas she thought a king of the land needed to show?

[Psalm 24](#)

This psalm of David fits well with the text above as a song one could imagine to be sung in joyful procession. V 5 promises blessing from the Lord for the pure and faithful, which links this Psalm also the praise of today's passage from Ephesians.

[Amos 7: 7-15](#)

Amos, by profession a shepherd and fig grower, is sent by God south into the kingdom of Israel to speak for him. There however the local prophets are in league with the king and object to Amos spreading doom and gloom. But Amos stands firm: God has placed a plumb line next to his people to see if they are true and found them wanting. They will be destroyed!



[Psalm 85: 8-13](#)

Verse 8 could be spoken by Amos, who is listening to God and passing the message on. God will give what is good!

[Ephesians 1: 3-14](#)

In complicated and dense writing this is a song of praise about the blessings God lavishes on his people in Christ. Praise be! In Christ we are chosen, predestined, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, taught of these mysteries, sealed in the Holy Spirit – all to his glory! What can we say but Hallelujah – Praise be to God!

[Mark 6: 14-29](#)

Jesus' fame goes out all over and reaches the rich and powerful like King Herod. People suspect that Jesus is a prophet or Elijah or even John the Baptist come back from the dead! This must be the first time resurrection is mentioned in Mark's gospel. Herod is convinced that John the Baptist has come back to life. Mark then tells us the gruesome story of John's end.

Sermon Ideas

How do we praise God? Like David with exuberance, song and dance – but also with fear and trembling and in awe of his power! Or like Amos, listening for the truth of God who measures us with his true measure and will find all of us wanting and deserving to be destroyed?

Thank God though for Jesus the Christ, who came to save us from the plumb line. Because we stand under the cross we are measured in love and will receive untold blessings and tuition in kingdom living.



Prayers



Living Stones is the theme for this year's Pray Now. It was also the theme for Heart and Soul 2015. *Living Stones* is available from [St Andrew Press](#). Discounts on bulk orders are available.

Collect

Almighty God,
 you have made us for yourself,
 and our hearts are restless
 till they find their rest in you.
 Give us peace in your service,
 and in the world to come
 the joy of seeing you face to face;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns
 with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

Lift up your heads, you gates;
 be lifted up, you ancient doors,
 that the King of glory may come in. (Psalm 24: 9)

Creator God, glorious and wonderful,
 come and enter here among us that we may praise you
 and bless you in our songs
 and words and all our worship.

God our Redeemer,
 merciful and full of love,
 come and enter here among us



that we may learn from you,
self-giving servant of God of what true love demands and has to offer.

Spirited God, life giving and renewing,
come and enter here among us
that we may be cleansed and refreshed
and leave here with a spring in our step
to go and love as we have witnessed.

Forgive us Lord, when our steps have been directed by dull tunes or deadly beats.

Forgive us Lord,
when we were moving into ourselves
and lost sight of you or your kingdom
and those whom you love.

Forgive us Lord, when we knew how to love
but made excuses and just pleased ourselves or short term gain!

Come, king of glory and reign over our hearts.
Come and teach us more of your ways
and heal the wounds which make us sore.
Send your rich blessings that we may grow
and blossom and share your love with all we meet. Amen



Time with Children

Talk with the children about how we measure things. You could bring different tape measures, a yard stick, a wall chart to measure height, a thermometer, a thermostat, even a light measure...

In the Bible there is a book of songs called the Psalms. In one of them someone asks: Who may go up to God and stand before him!? What would you say? Someone who is good, has a pure heart, has faith, knows the bible stories, loves God?

Only God can measure such things and we do not have to! What we have to remember is that if we follow Jesus instructions we will do good and be very welcome indeed by God in his house to celebrate life and sing and dance for joy!

Song: CH4, 404 I danced in the morning

Musical Suggestions

CH4 20	Lift up the gates (Psalm 24)
CH4 138	Nourished by the rainfall
CH4 157	Sing of the Lord's goodness
CH4 352	O for a thousand tongues to sing
CH4 404	I danced in the morning
CH4 512	To God be the glory
CH4 636	Baptised in water, sealed by the spirit



Additional Resources

Resourcing Mission



[Resourcing Mission](#) is host to Starters for Sunday and other key mission resources for download and purchase. Online booking is available for [Mission & Discipleship events](#). Please check back regularly, as new items are being added all the time. If there is something you'd like to see on this new site, please [contact us](#) via the website.

Prayer Resources

These materials are designed to be a starting point for what you might look for in prayers. [Living Stones](#) is available from [St Andrew Press](#).



Music Resources

The hymns mentioned in this material are ideas of specific hymns you might choose for this week's themes. However, for some excellent articles on church music and ideas for new music resources, please check out our online music pages [Different Voices](#).

Preaching Resources



These materials are designed to be a starting point for what you might preach this Sunday. [Preachers Perspectives](#) is a resource where we have asked twelve preachers to share the insights they have gathered through their experiences of writing and delivering sermons regularly.

Scots Worship Resources

[The Kirk's Ear](#) - Scots i the Kirk series for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and other times of the year

[Wurship Ouk bi Ouk](#) - Metrical psalms, hymns, prayers and words for worship

[Scots Sacraments](#) may give you helpful material if you are celebrating Communion or have a Baptism.

The Mission and Discipleship Council would like to express its thanks to the Rev Andrea Price for providing us with this Sunday's material.

Please note that the views expressed in these materials are those of the individual writer and not necessarily the official view of the Church of Scotland, which can be laid down only by the General Assembly.

