

Starters for Sunday

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

12 October 2014

The Mission and Discipleship Council would like to thank Rev Alan Birss, Minister of Paisley Abbey, for his thoughts on the eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

Starters for Sunday visitors looking for worship resources relating to this Sunday's Exodus readings can find material [here](#).

Contents

Isaiah 25: 6-10	2
Philippians 4: 1-9.....	2
Matthew 22: 1-14	2
Sermon Ideas	2
Prayers.....	3
Time with children	5
Musical Suggestions	5
Additional Resources.....	6



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](#)

[Isaiah 25: 6-10](#)

A hymn of thanksgiving praising God for his redeeming acts (verses 1-5) is followed by vision of the eschatological banquet to which ‘all peoples’ are invited. All who come to the banquet will find fullness of life. Death will be swallowed up (a dramatic reversal for death is frequently portrayed as swallowing up people (see Proverbs 1: 12)) and God will wipe away the tears from all faces.

[Philippians 4: 1-9](#)

Paul exhorts the Christian community to seek peace and unity in the Lord. Above all he urges them to rejoice. Even in their suffering, they can rejoice because the Lord is near. The Christian life is grounded in thanksgiving for what God has done in Christ.

[Matthew 22: 1-14](#)

Isaiah’s promise is fulfilled in Jesus – through Jesus all are invited to the banquet feast of the Kingdom. But the invitation must be accepted. As a wedding guest is expected to dress appropriately, so with the guest at the banquet of which Holy Communion is a foretaste: and as Paul reminds us the appropriate dress for the Christian is to be clothed with love.

Sermon Ideas

The readings lend themselves to a sermon on the Sacrament of Holy Communion, that foretaste of the heavenly banquet which we enjoy here on earth, where Christ is the host and to which he invites all.

The allusion to dress and the wedding in verses 11-14 could be developed to focus on the necessity of the worshipper to be clothed with Christ-like love. Extravagant or restrained, in church, hotel or registry office, one thing that almost always happens at a wedding is that



people dress up for the occasion; they put on special clothes for the wedding. While the outward clothes we wear to church, to the wedding feast of the Son, matter not a jot, there is clothing that all who share in Jesus' feast ought to wear. Paul in one of his letters says, be clothed with heartfelt compassion, generosity, humility, gentleness and patience: and above all put on love. Gregory the Great in answer to the question 'what is the wedding robe we should wear at the banquet?' said, 'What then must we understand by the wedding garment but love?' Be clothed in love, today's Gospel reminds us.

Prayers

Collect

Almighty God,
in our baptism you adopted us for your own.
Quicken your Spirit within us, that we,
being renewed both in body and mind,
may worship you in sincerity and truth
and serve you with thankfulness of heart;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns,
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever,
Amen

Common Order

Opening/Approach

God of goodness and kindness,
you invite all peoples to the banquet
and offer them a feast beyond compare.
Give us your saving grace
that we may joyfully accept your invitation
to worship and to serve you,
clothed with the wedding garment of love,



until that day when you welcome us
to heaven's joyful table.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever,
Amen.

Based on a prayer in 'Opening Prayers – the ICEL Collects Canterbury Press 1999

Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord of the feast;
you have prepared a table before all peoples
and in your great love you call us to your banquet
where we may be transformed into the people you would have us be.

For these and all your mercies
we praise you and with the whole company of heaven we worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever,
Amen.



Time with children



You might find the [Reader's Reactions](#) review of Bob Hartman's '[Bible stories through the year: lectionary readings for year A, retold for maximum effect](#)' useful for your Time with Children.

Use the idea of an invitation to a party to make the same points as suggested in the sermon: God invites us to come to church and we miss out on so much if we do not accept the invitation. As we dress up to go to a party, so we should make sure we dress in God's special 'clothing' of being kind and loving to others.

Musical Suggestions

CH4 192	All my hope on God is founded
CH4 715	Behold the mountain of the Lord
CH4 661	Eat this bread, drink this cup
CH4 685	For everyone born, a place at the table
CH4 180	Give thanks with a grateful heart
CH4 484	Great God your love has called us here
CH4 745	How great these glorious spirits shine
CH4 656	I come with joy
CH4 747	Jerusalem the golden
CH4 490	Jesu, lover of my soul
CH4 510	Jesus calls us here to meet him
CH4 662	Jesus thou joy of loving hearts
CH4 553	Just as I am
CH4 449	Rejoice the Lord is king
CH4 55	Safe in the Shadow of the Lord
CH4 547	What a friend we have in Jesus



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. [Revealing Love](#) is available now 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 in 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 Alan Birss 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.

