

starters for Sunday

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

19 October 2014

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

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

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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 45: 1-7](#)

Cyrus is portrayed as God's anointed one, appointed to rule in his name. This is the only occurrence in the OT of the term messiah referring to someone outside of the covenant community. Of Cyrus it is said that God calls him by name, language applied previously to Abraham and Israel, indicating a close relationship between God and his anointed 'agent'. God's sovereignty is, however, absolute: I am the Lord; there is no other.

[1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10](#)

The life and faith of the Thessalonians, in the face of persecution, is a sign that God has chosen them: they are imitators of the Lord and an example to others.

[Matthew 22: 15-22](#)

In this and in the following 'discussions' Jesus disappoints his opponents by giving answers that could not lead to his being branded a rebel or unfaithful. Note here as well as the discussion of the image on the coin (see sermon notes) the phrase 'the way of God' put into the mouths of the Pharisees and Herodians. The Way would become a 'trade-mark' for the early Church. The post-Pentecost community was known as followers of the Way before they were known as 'Christians'.

Sermon Ideas

If a local museum has a collection of coins from the ancient Greek and Roman world (as does, for example, the Burrell Collection in Glasgow) that could be used as a starting point for a reflection on image. The image of the Roman emperor on coins used throughout the Empire was important because it spoke to people of the power, prosperity and stability of the Roman Empire, even when the reality was somewhat different. That could lead to a consideration of



the image we like to present to other people of ourselves and from there to the idea that our true identity, our true image, is that we are women and men created in the image of God. Image is important – not an image created by what we wear but the image of God that should shine through our words and deeds

Prayers

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God,
increase in us your gift of faith,
that forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
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

O God, whose image we bear and whose name we carry,
yours is the world and all it contains.
To you belong our fullest loyalty and love;
the allegiance of our lives.
Help us now and always worthily
to serve you in worship and in our lives.
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

It is right to give unceasing thanks and praise to you, Holy God,
ruler of the universe and giver of life.

We give thanks to you for our creation in your image
and for all the blessings of this life.

But above all we give thanks for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

With all the choir of heaven,
we proclaim your greatness,
our Lord and King.

To you, Father,
with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God,
be ascribed by the whole church on earth and in heaven,
all glory and praise,
now and for 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.

The paying of taxes is unlikely to be uppermost in the thoughts of children so perhaps today might be an opportunity to investigate stewardship with them. Why do we have an offering at our services? Then develop the theme to consider the offering of money as a token/symbol of the offering of our lives to God through being part of his church.



Musical Suggestions

CH4 192	All my hope on God is founded
CH4 63	All people that on earth do dwell
CH4 458	At the name of Jesus
CH4 466	Before the throne of God above
CH4 738	Glorious things of thee are spoken
CH4 153	Great is thy faithfulness
CH4 704	I vow to thee my country
CH4 503	I will offer up my life
CH4 132	Immortal, invisible, God only wise
CH4 470	Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
CH4 264	Judge eternal, throned in splendour
CH4 558	Lord, I lift your name on high
CH4 127	O worship the King
CH4 201	O Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
CH4 124	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
CH4 449	Rejoice, the Lord is king
CH4 502	Take my life
CH4 129	The Lord is king! Lift up thy voice
CH4 112	Thou/God, whose almighty word
CH4 363	We have a gospel to proclaim
CH4 642	Ye that know the Lord is precious



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.

