

TOMORROW'S CALLING

The Mission and Discipleship Council would like to thank the Very Rev David Lunan for providing these prayers as part of 'Tomorrow's Calling'.

The theme of 'call' is the ground of all our beginnings and endings in the Christian life. My calling is not really different from yours. Discipleship is always a call, a response to God-in-Christ inviting, challenging and reconciling us (Christ saying to us "What do you want me to do for you?"). It's a moving of the Spirit around us and within us, and we re-act (or not).

The ministry of word and sacrament is one calling among many, just as there are also many different roles within that particular calling to ministry of word and sacrament, of which I would say parish ministry is basic and primary - for as long as there congregations of believers and parishes to serve...

I therefore offer a selection of shorter prayers, which could be used at the end of a sermon, or incorporated into, for example, prayers of intercession.

1.

Lord God Almighty, you sent your Son into our midst,
and you have breathed your Holy Spirit into our lives.
In the peace you have granted us,
with the gifts you have given us,
may we know how you want us to live,
where you want to send us,
what you are calling us to be and to do,
in the service of your Kingdom;
that we may do all things to the glory of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

2.

Lord God, by your word you brought creation out of chaos;
by your word made flesh in Jesus Christ
you bring forgiveness of sin and newness of life.
By you reconciling and restoring Spirit so work within your Church,
that there may be among us,
women and men of prayer,
who respond to your word,
and are called to minister among us,
as preachers of your word,
as ambassadors of your Kingdom.
That for this day, and for that day, for our time, and for all eternity,
we may be re-shaped into the likeness of Christ,
and by your grace, be ready and eager to meet you face to face.
Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen

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3.

Lord God our loving Father in heaven,
look upon us with mercy,
for you know our need of you and our longing for your love.
Hear us as we pray for the Church, our Church, your Church,
that we may be faithful to all that you have given to us
all that you have revealed to us.
Raise up we pray women and men to serve
and lead your people, as ministers of your word.
May they, by your grace alone,
be able to share with others the love you have shown them;
followers of yours, Lord Jesus, who will not only speak your word,
but who live your word; followers who not only demonstrate the Christ-life,
but can say why they do;
humble men and women, who walk the walk and talk the talk,
because they belong to you,
and your hand is upon them, guiding and protecting.
This prayer we ask in Jesus' name. Amen

4.

Lord Jesus Christ,
Great Physician, doctor of the soul, friend of sinners, Saviour of the world,
hear us as we pray for the Church's ministers;
that they may speak your truth in love;
that they not only know the scriptures, but know you.
With courage and compassion may they care for your people,
and help us all to draw closer to you.
May your living word, through them, and through us,
bring healing to our souls, and healing to the nations.
That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,
and every tongue confess, that Jesus is Lord;
to the glory of the Father. Amen

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5.

Send your Spirit, Lord God, we pray,
that we might be turned around,
transformed into the likeness of Christ,
and become transmitters of your eternal love.
May we be instruments in your hand,
that your word and your love may be heard and felt.
May we be not only your mouthpiece,
but your ears to listen;
your eyes to see;
your mind to think;
your heart to love;
your feet to go;
your hands to comfort, and hold, and heal, and bless.
When you call, may we hear;
when we hear, may we respond,
that together we may live to the glory
of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen