

The Vine at Home
17th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year B
25th July 2021

Call to worship

Grace is here to welcome us, Christ is here amongst us,
The Spirit moves by ways we do not know, And God comes close, closer than we can
imagine.

Come close, Lord Jesus.

Amen.¹

Hymn: 44 STF – Come on and celebrate! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ekZIByjMVI>

Opening Prayers

This day, Lord of light, we come to encounter you.

We invite you to come and shine in our hearts, to transform us by your love and your grace,
that our faces might shine with your glory, that your love might be seen in our eye-contact,
our gentle smile, our encouraging nod, perhaps even our tentative embrace.

This day, Lord of light, come amongst us by your grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

For our prayers of thanksgiving, you are invited to think of something you are thankful for.
Each of us have received so much and, no matter how we feel right now, there is something
we can be thankful for. Let's just take a few moments now - what are you thankful for today?

Living God, we are truly thankful. You, O Lord, are the provider of blessings and giver of
gifts. We are your thankful people.

And despite all you have done for us, despite all we have received, we have failed you and
fallen short of your desires for our lives. We have stood with the apostle Paul when we have
done and said the things we wish we hadn't, and regret the missed opportunities to do and
say the things we wish we had.

We'll hold a moment of quiet now, in which you are invited to reflect on your mistakes and
regrets from this past week, offering them to God in prayer.

Living God, you accept us just as we are, you welcome us into your presence, no matter
what we have done or how we have let you down. Thank you for your forgiveness for us and
for continuing to use us for your glory.

We bring all our prayers in the name of the Creator God, the risen Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.²

Let us now say the Lord's Prayer

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Tim Baker

Readings: 2 Samuel 11:1-15 David Commits Adultery with Bathsheba

11 In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

2 It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. **3** David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." **4** So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. **5** The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

6 So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. **7** When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. **8** Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. **9** But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. **10** When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" **11** Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths;^[a] and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." **12** Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, **13** David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

David Has Uriah Killed

14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. **15** In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

John 6:1-21 – Feeding the Five Thousand

6 After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.^[a] **2** A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. **3** Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. **4** Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. **5** When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" **6** He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. **7** Philip answered him, "Six months' wages^[b] would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." **8** One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, **9** "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" **10** Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they^[c] sat down, about five thousand in all. **11** Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. **12** When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." **13** So they gathered them up, and from the

fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. **14** When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

15 When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Jesus Walks on the Water

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, **17** got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. **18** The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. **19** When they had rowed about three or four miles,^[d] they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. **20** But he said to them, “It is I;^[e] do not be afraid.” **21** Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Reflections on the reading

The full reflection from All We Can (allwecan.org.uk) is included in The Vine Resources – email thevine@twelvebaskets.co.uk to find out if your circuit is subscribed.

Have you ever had unexpected guests at a meal time? Imagine having five thousand people turn up for Sunday lunch. If you were suddenly asked to provide for thousands of people would you react like Philip or Jesus? Would your practical mind work out that this would be an expensive meal and one that you certainly couldn't afford? Or would you calmly trust that all you needed was already there?

In this story, Jesus shows us how extraordinary things can happen. Jesus takes an ordinary amount of food and changes it into something remarkable.

What about you? Where are the 'ordinary' moments in your life, that could become extraordinary? What are the 'ordinary' things, practices, habits, life-choices, resources, relationships that you have...which might be (or become) extraordinary?
How can we use the 'simple' things that we have to help make the world a better place?

Let us pray.

O God of all, You bring life and transformation
And offer us the gift of joining in partnership with you.
All over the world, we see change beginning,
we see ordinary things and ordinary people having an extraordinary impact.
Show us how to demonstrate your generous love in all we do,
Give us hearts that overflow from you,
Living God, we pray that change will begin here, in this place,
We pray that change may begin with us.

Amen.³

³ Based on the reflection written by All We Can

Prayers of intercession

Leader: Heavenly Father,

We pray for the students and teachers in our communities.
We bring before you the children who will be able to access education because of the extraordinary gift of a bike.

Leader: Lord of transformation,

All: Turn the ordinary into the extraordinary

We pray for those who are living in poverty in our midst. We pray that the work of All We Can and their partners would break the cycle of poverty in Uganda and bring change.

Lord of transformation,

Turn the ordinary into the extraordinary

Help us all to fulfil our God-given potential. May these bikes be a starting point for children to live life to the maximum and see their hopes and dreams become a reality.

Lord of transformation,

Turn the ordinary into the extraordinary

We pray for our heads of government and those in positions of power. We ask for them to be motivated to eradicate injustice and inequality.

Lord of transformation,

Turn the ordinary into the extraordinary

We thank you for the NHS and the amazing staff that keep it running. We pray for communities like Butagaya where access to healthcare is difficult and limited.

Lord of transformation,

Turn the ordinary into the extraordinary

We thank you for the opportunity to keep learning and growing. We pray for the young people in Butagaya learning to be bike mechanics and pray that these skills will help sustain them and give them security.

Lord of transformation,

Turn the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Amen.⁴

⁴ Prayers of intercession written by All We Can

Hymn: 615 STF – Let love be real, in giving and receiving - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkBAxZw5NxU>

Blessing

May God help us to steer our lives towards him,
May he use us to break the cycle of poverty
And keep the wheels of transformation turning.
May Almighty God bless you and guide you on your way,
Amen.⁵

⁵ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

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