

Wednesday

# Morning Prayer



**Chosen,  
Called,  
Commissioned**

We begin our day in worship and collective prayer. The readings for this service reflect the theme of the coming day: 'Called: Re-formed in God's likeness.' We hear both the prophet Jeremiah and the apostle Paul speaking of their calling into God's service, and the Collect is that for the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul.

There are suggestions for posture throughout the service, maintaining the ancient tradition of standing for praise and collective prayer. These are invitations rather than suggestions, and you are always welcome to remain seated or to take up a more comfortable posture.

Front cover: Lucy Bingham

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Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,  
I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in  
Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 3: 14*

*You are invited to stand if you are comfortably able.*

*Officiant* O Lord, open our lips  
*All* **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant* Your light springs up for the righteous  
*All* **and all the peoples have seen your glory.**

### **Hymn**

**All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
all this world reveres, and wars to own,  
all I once thought gain I have counted loss,  
spent and worthless now, compared to this:**

***Knowing you, Jesus,  
knowing you, there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, you're the best,  
you're my joy, my righteousness, and I love you, Lord.***

**Now my heart's desire is to know you more,  
to be found in you and known as yours,  
to possess by faith what I could not earn,  
all-surpassing gift of righteousness:**

***Knowing you, Jesus...***

**Oh, to know the power of your risen life  
and to know You in Your sufferings,  
to become like you in your death, my Lord,  
so with you to live and never die:**

***Knowing you, Jesus...***

## Psalm 147: 13-end

*Please sit. The whole congregation joins in with the text in bold and pauses together at the diamond, taking our cue from the officiant.*

- 13 Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem; ♦  
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 **For he has strengthened the bars of your gates ♦  
and has blest your children within you.**
- 15 He has established peace in your borders ♦  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 **He sends forth his command to the earth ♦  
and his word runs very swiftly.**
- 17 He gives snow like wool ♦  
and scatters the hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 **He casts down his hailstones like morsels of bread; ♦  
who can endure his frost?**
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; ♦  
he blows with his wind and the waters flow.
- 20 **He declares his word to Jacob, ♦  
his statutes and judgements to Israel.**
- 21 He has not dealt so with any other nation; ♦  
they do not know his laws. Alleluia.
- Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Officiant* Compassionate God,  
as you know each star you have created,  
so you know the secrets of every heart;  
in your loving mercy bring to your table  
all who are fearful and broken,  
all who are wounded and needy,  
that our hungers may be satisfied  
in the city of your peace; through Christ who is our peace.

*All* **Amen.**

## **First Reading**

*Jeremiah 1: 4–10*

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.’

Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.’ But the Lord said to me,

‘Do not say, “I am only a boy”;  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you.  
Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.’

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,

‘Now I have put my words in your mouth.  
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.’

*Reader*     Here ends the reading.

## **Second Reading**

*Philippians 3: 1–14*

Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a safeguard.

Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the flesh! For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh—even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Reader*      Here ends the reading.

## **Responsory**

*Leader*      I regard everything as loss  
*All*            **because of the surpassing value  
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.**

*Leader*      I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection  
*All*            **because of the surpassing value  
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.**

*Leader*      Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
*All*            **I regard everything as loss,  
because of the surpassing value  
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.**

*You are invited to stand if you are comfortably able.*

## **Gospel Canticale**

### *The Benedictus*



**Bless the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who has come to set us free.  
He has raised for us a Saviour  
sprung from royal David's tree.  
Through his prophets God had spoken  
of the hope the Christ would bring;  
of his faithfulness and mercy  
let each generation sing.**

**Long ago God made a promise  
he would set his people free,  
that in all our life and worship  
we might know true liberty,  
to be holy, to be righteous  
in his sight throughout our days;  
now this child will be a herald  
making ready all God's ways.**

Let all people know salvation  
through forgiveness of their sin,  
as our God in his compassion  
bids a shining dawn begin.  
So may all who dwell in darkness  
see the shadows disappear  
while he guides our feet in pathways  
where his peace is ever near.

To the Father be all glory  
with the Spirit and the Son,  
as it was, is now and shall be  
while eternal ages run.

*Words: Anne Harrison (b. 1954)*

*Music: Corvedale, Maurice Bevan (1921–2006)*

*Please sit or kneel to pray.*

## **Prayers**

*Leader* From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
let us pray to the Lord.

For the mission of your Church, that in every place  
your name may be known and praised.

Lord, hear us.

*All* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Leader* For the ministry of your people,  
that every church may be a place of safety  
where your good news is heard.

Lord, hear us.

*All* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Leader* For all who lead your people,  
that each of us may take our place  
and fulfil our calling.



Lord, hear us.  
*All*        **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Leader*     For each of us, that you may renew our calling  
and form us more and more into your likeness.

Lord, hear us.  
*All*        **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader*     Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel  
to shine throughout the world  
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:  
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion  
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All*        **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Leader*     Believing in the promises of God,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

*All*        **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*You are invited to stand if you are comfortably able.*

### **Hymn**



**To God be the glory, great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory! Great things he has done!***

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!  
To every believer the promise of God!  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

***Praise the Lord!...***

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher and greater will be  
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

***Praise the Lord!...***

*Words: Fanny Crosby (1820–1915)*

*Music: To God be the glory, WH Doane (1832–1916)*

## **The Conclusion**

*Leader*      May Christ, who sends us to the nations,  
give us the power of his Spirit.

*All*            **Amen.**

*Leader*      Let us bless the Lord.

*All*            **Thanks be to God.**

Liturgy taken from Common Worship Daily Prayer.

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