SERVICE OF READINGS

Order of Worship

SR No G/15 - Theme:-" Called bv God "

OPENING Psalm 118 verses 1 - 5

HYMN 29 Thou whose almighty word.

PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

NOTICES

OFFERING

CHILDREN'S Introduction

READING 1 Samuel 3 verses 2-10

Comment

HYMN 525 Master Speak thy servant heareth

(Children may leave here if required)

INTRODUCTION

READING Genesis 12 verses 1 - 9

Comment

READING Matthew 4 verses 18 - 25

Comment

HYMN 467 Break thou the bread of life

INTRODUCTION

READING Matthew 10 verses 1-14

Comment

READING Acts 9 verses 1 - 20

Comment

HYMN 788 Behold the servant of the Lord

INTRODUCTION

READING Ephesians 4 verses 11-16

Closing Comment

PRAYERS

HYMN 785 A Charge to keep I have

Benediction

* Please share the different items out. Feel free to write on the scripts if you need to identify who will be doing each part.
* In most places during the service you can see the script is in short sections, marked with bold dots on the left hand side (as shown on the left here too)... each section mark shows a brief break which can be used to show where another voice takes over, or at least where you pause. Take your time please.
* Please read everything through at least once, even the scripture passages.
* The service works best with a MODERN translation of the Bible eg GOOD NEWS etc.
* Please read slowly, especially for the prayers. Why not add to the prayers if the News suggests it.
* I normally provide TWO (or THREE) copies of the script, plus an extra order of service for the organist, but I can provide more if you ask me in time!
* Return the scripts please (with your comments if you wish), some pages can be used again even if you have written on some others.

Thank you for your help

Some chapels like to close by singing extra hymns, either favourites or perhaps trying new ones)

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HYMN 22 Thou whose almighty word

PRAYERS Let us Pray

* Loving Lord God, our heavenly Father, we come together now to bring you our worship, in praise and thanksgivings. As your children, Lord, we rejoice in your infinite power and never ending love for all you have made.
* We thank you Lord that because of Jesus we are yours, and you are ours. We rejoice that you care for every one of us... our sorrows ... and our joys. Help us now to understand more of your ways as we share this time of worship together. Help us to see more of your hand upon our world and our lives. Lead us evermore to follow your guidance in our own lives as individuals and together as your Church on earth. Thank you for the assurance you give, that you will always be with us, that you will continue your understanding of our ways.
* Loving heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for the day by day blessings that we receive from you. Your provision of our food and our shelter... as well as the blessings of health and good friends. Help us, Father, not to take these things for granted.
* Lord we come to thank you for the many times when we know you have been with us in special times of difficulty. We acknowledge the times when we have been encouraged and strengthened by you and the fellowship of your people within the family of your Church. Help us to continue that tradition of mutual care and support that should be a hallmark of your own people.
* And Father... as we consider your own great goodness to us... we realise our own shortcomings and failings. How we rejoice in calling ourselves your people, yet too often we seem to let you down. Our care and concern for the people who count on us falls short, we are too busy to do what is right and we don't manage to trust you when it really matters most.
* And Lord be with us now as we humbly bring you our fears and failures. Forgive the sins that hold us back. May we receive your full forgiveness, with open hands and renewed hearts. Make us ready to receive all that you have ready for us in your son.

Loving Lord, we thank you for the freshness of spirit that Jesus gives to all your people.\_May we

come to know and trust his guidance into new things as we continue in him Be with us as we bring

you these prayers in his precious name.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen

NOTICES and OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER:

-All we have, all we are, and all we may become...

.... are ours because of your goodness. Lord..

Bless all we bring now, as we respond to your goodness,

.... in the name of Jesus.

Amen

CHILDREN'S READING and ADDRESS

(N.B.:Part of the service, even if Children are not present)

Introduction • This time, we have a reading from the Old Testament about a young boy called

Samuel who was helping the priest, who was called Eli. They were on night duty in the Temple.

Reading 1 Samuel Chapter 3 verses 2-10

Comment • The surprising thing in this story is that God spoke to the young boy Samuel and not Eli the priest, because priests were the people who were supposed to be religious. Samuel had to learn that God really was speaking to him and asking him to serve in a special way.

* Eli was obviously wise enough to realise what God was doing and he doesn't seem to be jealous that God didn't just use the 'professionals' like himself, but chose a young lad instead. I guess not everyone might have been as kind to young Samuel as Eli was, because it is very special and unusual for God to actually speak aloud to people like this.
* This story may be a special one, but we do. know that nobody is 'too young' to be special to God. There are many times when children... and their prayers... have made a big difference. Jesus showed that children are very close to him, when he stopped to talk with them and bless them... even when his disciples thought he was much too busy to be bothered.

Let us offer a short prayer as a child, using words from 'Magnet'

O God, You have called us to be like little children.  
Give us the eyes of a child -  
Curious and determined to see what is going on.  
Give us the ears of a child -  
Sharp and attentive to hear your words of love.  
And give us the energy of a child -   
Expecting a response and confident that We can change the world.  
Amen

Our next hymn is a reminder of how we should be ready to listen to God speaking to us at anytime. Even though the words may seem old fashioned... we need to hear the message of this hymn today.

Hymn 585 Master speak thy servant hearetli

Children mav leave at this point [f required

Introduction • Many times in the Bible God calls people to serve him in special ways. In most

cases, the people concerned have very little idea of what will be happening to them.

* The disciples were asked for firm commitment when Jesus called them to follow him. Their occupations seemed unlikely to have prepared them for a 'world mission', but once Jesus had called and prepared them they were ready for anything.

**READING** Matthew Chapter 4 verses 18-25

* The men already knew Jesus. He had talked with Peter and Andrew previously and he had been preaching in the area. When Jesus called them, they knew what kind of person he was and they were ready to trust him and follow him. They hadn't been tricked or hypnotised in any way... their choice was based on their own belief that he could change their lives forever.
* James and his brother John, together with Peter and Andrew, were the first disciples that Jesus called to work with him They were quickly motivated to get up and leave their old routine - immediately! They could easily have made excuses about bad timing or pressure of their work, but they left at once to follow him.
* Jesus make different calls on each of his followers. Often this personal call moves us on... from things we know (that give us some security)... into new things where we know we will have to trust God to help us be useful.

HYMN 461 Break thou the bread of life. O Lord to me

Introduction • Jesus sent out his twelve disciples to serve and represent him. They weren't yet fully trained but he had a job for them to do.

When Jesus calls you how do you respond ?

* In the reading we notice that Jesus called people from different walks of life and of different temperaments too. He called common people and uncommon leaders. There were rich and poor as well as educated and uneducated. Too many people think that only certain types of people are called, but 'the master1 doesn't think like that. Jesus calls ordinarily people to do extra-ordinarily work in the world. Are we listening ?
* Our next reading reminds us how God can 'turn people round'. It's the story of Saul (from Tarsus) who started off chasing and persecuting Christians, but ended up as a respected leader of the Church.

Reading: Acts Chapter 9 verses 1 - 20

* This is a wonderful story of transformation. The 'Hunter of Christians' becomes a preacher and teacher once he has met Jesus for himself. A wonderful part of the story, is how Ananias trusted God's call to go to Saul... who was later then known as Paul. It can't have seemed very likely that one of the worst persecutors of the early Church should suddenly join them ... but Ananias trusted God and also believed the forgiveness that has been part of the Christian message from the beginning.
* The chance of God calling us may seem to be a 'long shot' too. We may think we are unworthy, or too hard to use, but perhaps we need to remember Paul's story. Our past can be forgiven and there are things that we can start to do, when we hear Jesus call us to join him
* When Jesus sent out the twelve disciples... and when he called Paul... he also made sure they were equipped and given the strength of the Holy Spirit to do the things they were called to do. Nobody is left to struggle In their own strength alone.

Our next hymn reminds us that we are servants of the Lord, where we are. Our own abilities and natures are being gradually changed to help us serve God better.

Hymn 788 Behold the servant of the Lord

* Introduction Some of us are called to particular tasks (whether we know it yet or not) and some may not be, but we are all called to share together in the mission Jesus has begun. Will we follow his calling or will we stay as we are ?... the success of his Church in our area will depend on us hearing his call and responding to it together.

Reading Ephesians Chapter 4 verses 11-16

* + - * Jesus is our head and will guide and inspire all we take on for him If we try things on our own, we may soon find our efforts are in vain, but with Jesus our exciting mission will be covered by his victory.

Prayers Let us pray.

* Lord Jesus we rejoice that you have called your people through the centuries and have always given the assurance of your daily blessings on all that is done in your name. Bless us now Lord. Prompt in us the responses that will further your Kingdom in our own lives and in the lives of all your people. Help us to hear clearly your word in our lives.
* We pray for all who preach and share the gospel in different ways. Be with all who are involved in studies and in training for all kinds of Christian service, at home or in colleges. Guide and empower Sunday School teachers and Youth workers in our own Circuit and throughout your Church, giving them wisdom and insights to work effectively and with authority.
* We pray for the world of which we are a part. Give Wisdom to leaders of nations and powerful organisations that can affect the lives of so many people. May they have the courage to decide and the integrity to influence in ways that promote the common good.
* We pray for all who are ill or in particular need of our prayers. Those who are in hospital or who may be unwell in their homes. We pray particularly for all who are alone. Lord, strengthen and support all who work to bring relief and healing to those in need, either as part of their working life... or simply for their family and friends.
* Finally we ask your blessing and protection for all we undertake in your name, for all we must do in the week ahead and for all our hopes and plans for the future.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Hymn 785 A charge to keep I have

BENEDICTION

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ And the Love of God,

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Be with us all evermore. AMEN

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