

MONDAY
31 AUGUST
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Psalm 33:12-21
Luke 4:16-30

TUESDAY
1 SEPTEMBER
1 Corinthians 2:10b-end
Psalm 145:10-17
Luke 4:31-37

WEDNESDAY
2 SEPTEMBER
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Psalm 62
Luke 4:38-end

THURSDAY
3 SEPTEMBER
1 Corinthians 3:18-end
Psalm 24:1-6
Luke 5:1-11

FRIDAY
4 SEPTEMBER
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Psalm 37:3-8
Luke 5:33-end

SATURDAY
5 SEPTEMBER
1 Corinthians 4:6-15
Psalm 145:18-end
Luke 6:1-5

REFLECTION

We open with Jesus initiating his public ministry from Nazareth, his home town. In Isaiah's footsteps he decisively declares his mission: bringing good news to those who are poor, freedom for captives and those who are oppressed, healing for those who are sick, God's generous redemption to all.

Reminding his neighbours that God's generosity is not exclusive to the chosen people leads to antagonistic rejection, so Jesus kickstarts his missional activity not at home, but healing in the town of Capernaum. Traversing Galilee's northern shores he demonstrates God's abundance through a miraculous catch of fish, drawing Simon Peter and the first disciples to follow him. But rejection arises again as the religious hierarchy question Jesus' authority, accusing him and his entourage of frivolity and laxity. The trouble with God's overflowing abundance is that it is indiscriminate, uncontrollable, playing havoc with rules both of religion and society. If poor people are empowered, oppressed people are released, frail people are strengthened, then anything might happen, the status quo could be overturned. That is seriously scary for secular and religious powers to contemplate, then and now – do we truly believe it to be the Gospel message for today?

PRAYER

Holy God, your only son stepped out from the comforts of home,
to proclaim your message of inclusive generosity with forthright conviction.
Give us the strength to be like Jesus, bold and unstinting in our support for those who are marginalised, outcast and oppressed.



01420 88222 www.rpbooks.co.uk rp@rpbooks.co.uk @redemptorist

FSC logo

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANGLICAN LITURGY

PART I – INTRODUCTION

In a four-part series, Heather Smith examines the history of Anglican liturgy.

The Church of England's website describes liturgy as "one of the glories of the Church of England". Lifelong Church of England goers may never have given the fact of liturgy much thought, but a visit to another denomination will illustrate how central it is to the Anglican experience.

The Church of England uses particular forms of words, with a set order to the service. The form itself is familiar and, while most of the words are the same for every service of a particular type, some elements change by week or season, for example the collect and readings. These are known as the propers. So the weekly worship journey is familiar, but not identical. It allows these well-known texts to interact with our experiences. Something said every week may suddenly strike us in a new way, or a reading or prayer may shed new light on what we have heard and said over years of churchgoing.

In recent times – the last fifty years or so – the Church has developed new forms of liturgy which supplement the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP), the approved service book for four centuries. Although these new forms of liturgy are embedded across the Church, BCP actually remains the only permanently authorised service book. These liturgical changes are the responsibility of the Liturgical Commission, which aims to combine research into early forms of Christian worship with contemporary needs. Its members are liturgical experts, both ordained and lay.

Changes began in the 1960s, with alternative services called Series One, Two and Three. Series Three was groundbreaking in that it used contemporary English for the first time. The *Alternative Service Book* followed in 1980, with *Common Worship* replacing it in 2000.

The Church of England explains that "the way we worship and pray together helps to reflect who we are". We, in turn, might reflect on what that means for us. How has it shaped us over the years, or changed the way we think about ourselves?

LIVE
the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
Caroline Hodgson
and
Heather Smith

Heather is a writer, editor and priest. She has Permission to officiate in Salisbury Diocese and is a chaplain for the Christian charity, Alabaré, working with young people in supported housing.



Twelfth week
after Trinity

Monday 31 August to
Saturday 5 September
2020

WEEK