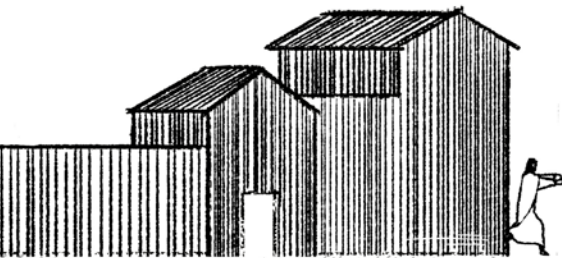


spill the beans

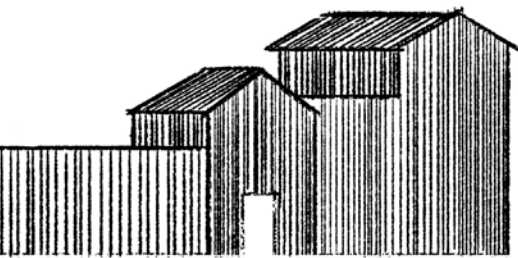
worship and learning resources for all ages



sampler

issue 60

pentecost 14 to reign of christ
30 august to 22 november 2026



A resource with a Scottish flavour for
Worship Leaders, Sunday Schools,
Junior Churches and Youth Leaders.

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introduction

Welcome to the fourth issue in a two year series comprising eight issues of Spill the Beans through which we are embarking on a journey through the texts written by Saint Luke: both his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles.

Lukan Lectionary

While working through our previous Word and World Lectionary cycle the Spill the Beans Resource Team was already working on the next steps and had long discussed the possibility of focussing for a year on one Gospel. There was not, amongst us, a great desire at this stage to return to one of the other lectionaries like the RCL or Narrative, so we started initially to work on a way to cover all of the text of Luke's Gospel.

As we completed that work it seemed natural to continue on with Luke's second book as these are two parts of one larger work. While seeking to include every verse of each book during the year we did need to do some work in order to also meaningfully mark the main seasons, so we have split how we approach the text into sections. This is particularly noticeable, of course, when journeying through the Gospel as we take a season to travel the Road to Golgotha before then taking a long season on the Ministry of Jesus. We hope that this makes some logical sense.

We keep the format for the layout of the issues as we have used in past years, which we hope encourages the development of intergenerational worship.

See [pages 4-6](#) for the details of this new lectionary so that you can plan ahead.

On This Day

In this issue we are experimenting with a new feature (building on our Word and World lectionary) in which we provide information about historical events linked to the day upon which worship takes place which could help provide some hooks for worship leaders.

Intergenerational Worship

Spill the Beans has always been rooted in the power of story telling. Story binds generations together. In that shared bond of story lies the creative space for building relationships between generations. Using different ways to engage with the story recognises the variety amongst us all: some learn by listening, others by doing, others by creating. All are valuable and a part of our shared worship of God.

We are encouraging you to experiment as we will be doing with ways to worship intergenerationally in an authentic and inclusive manner. To that end we are still providing a rich variety of resources but grouped by how they help us **'tell the story'**, **'explore the story'**, and **'live the story'**. Mix and match, rewrite, contextualise for your own setting, try something different, and have fun with it! Please do give us feedback.

There are many resources online to help think more

deeply about intergenerational worship. A simple but very helpful summary is provided by the Methodist Church, copied below.

Intergenerational worship IS about:

- **building relationships**—offering a key time for people to get to know each other better and build a sense of connection;
- **a time of worship and learning that is offered in a simplified and participatory way**—simple does not mean shallow; rather it enables everyone to contribute and receive in a meaningful and appropriate way;
- **providing an inclusive experience and a sense of belonging**—helping everyone of all abilities to feel part of the body of Christ, whatever their experience;
- **being a bridge**—not only between ages but also for those who are exploring what being part of a church means. This relaxed service style can provide a comfortable place for some to discover more about Christianity;
- **encouragement, nurture and inclusiveness**—it is a means by which faith can grow and, in turn, inform life-making or life-changing decisions;
- **exploring vocation**—an opportunity to discover and develop gifts and calling.

Intergenerational worship is NOT about:

- limiting the richness of resources used;
- oversimplifying the message or adding a children's talk into the 'usual' service;
- unstructured and chaotic worship;
- children having token responsibilities for roles and participation;
- limiting potential to explore faith and discipleship together;
- nuclear families exclusively worshipping together.

Information

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Sleepless Nights Publications

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the team

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Key to Abbreviations

In the worship ideas section the following abbreviations may be used to indicate different sources of worship music:

ATAS	All the Assembly Songs You'll Ever Need
CG	Common Ground
CH4	Church Hymnary, 4th Edition
GTG	Glory To God: The Presbyterian Hymnal
GWA	God Welcomes All (Supplement to CH4)
JP	Junior Praise
MP	Complete Mission Praise
SGP	Songs of God's People
STF	Singing The Faith
WGP	Wild Goose Publications



lukan lectionary

Journeying With The Doctor

Welcome to our new lectionary based around the texts of Saint Luke's Gospel and Acts of the Apostles.

It is not possible just to work our way through the gospel chronologically, as there are inevitably some diversions at different points in the year to align with the liturgical calendar. So we have tried to approach this a little differently with some major themes that we will explore: the beginning birth narrative, the road to Golgotha, Holy Week and the Passion, and finally Jesus' life and ministry. We are going to be reading every verse of the gospel during the year.

For the Acts of the Apostles, Luke's sequel, we have tried to follow chronologically the events as Luke records them

as much as possible. Again, we will be reading every verse of Acts over the course of the year.

You can find the complete plan for both years in the following table.

Come join us on this journey with the good Doctor Luke.

Date	Liturgical	Primary Text	Support Text	Notes
LUKAN LECTIONARY YEAR 1: THE GOSPEL OF LUKE				
The Beginning				
30 Nov 25	Advent 1	Luke 1:1-4	Joshua 22:4-6	The Setup; The Lord's Commandment
7 Dec 25	Advent 2	Luke 1:5-38	Isaiah 9:2-7	Births foretold; People walking in darkness
14 Dec 25	Advent 3	Luke 1:39-56	Psalms 146	The Magnificat; Praise for God's help
21 Dec 25	Advent 4	Luke 1:57-80	Isaiah 40:1-9	John the Baptist's birth; God's people are comforted
25 Dec 25	Christmas Day	Luke 2:1-20	Micah 5:2-5	Jesus' birth; Ruler from Bethlehem
28 Dec 25	Christmas 1	Luke 2:21-40	1 Samuel 1:19-28	Jesus presented; Samuel's dedication
4 Jan 26	Christmas 2	Luke 2:41-52	1 Samuel 2:18-21	Jesus as a boy; Samuel growing up in God's presence
The Road To Golgotha				
11 Jan 26	Epiphany 1	Luke 19:45-20:8	Proverbs 26:4-5	Jesus back in the Temple; Fools and folly
18 Jan 26	Epiphany 2	Luke 17:22-37	Genesis 19:15-29	Jesus foretells death/resurrection; Sodom & Gomorrah
25 Jan 26	Epiphany 3	Luke 6:1-11; 13:10-17	Exodus 34:21	Jesus breaking Sabbath taboos; Sabbath renewal
1 Feb 26	Epiphany 4	Luke 11:14-23	Acts 28:23-28	Jesus causing division; Paul preaching in Rome
8 Feb 26	Epiphany 5	Luke 11:29-54	Jonah 3:1-10	Signs from Jonah with Jesus' critique; Nineveh conversion
15 Feb 26	Transfiguration	Luke 9:21-36, 43b-45	Exodus 34:29-35	Jesus foretells and transfiguration; Moses beams
22 Feb 26	Lent 1	Luke 12:49-56	Micah 7:1-7	Households divided and repentance; People corrupted
1 Mar 26	Lent 2	Luke 15:1-10	Ezekiel 34:11-16	Parables of the shepherd/woman; The true shepherd
8 Mar 26	Lent 3	Luke 18:31-34	Luke 13:1-9; 21:29-33	Third foretelling of death/resurrection; On fig trees
15 Mar 26	Lent 4	Luke 20:9-19	Isaiah 5:1-7	Parable of the vineyard; Song of the unfruitful vineyard
22 Mar 26	Lent 5	Luke 20:20-26	Acts 17:1-9	Taxes and authority; Uproar in Thessalonica
29 Mar 26	Palms/Passion	Luke 19:28-44	Zachariah 9:8-12	Entrance to Jerusalem; A coming ruler
The Passion (Holy Week)				
30 Mar 26	Monday	Luke 20:27-21:4	Deuteronomy 25:5-10	Questions about resurrection and widow's mite; Levirate marriage
31 Mar 26	Tuesday	Luke 21:5-28	Revelation 6:1-17	Mini-apocalypse; The seven seals
1 Apr 26	Wednesday	Luke 21:34-22:6	John 7:45-53	Be on your guard and Judas' plans; Plotting amongst elites
2 Apr 26	Maundy Thursday	Luke 22:7-30(31-46)	Deuteronomy 16:1-8	Preparation of Passover; institution, disputes; Passover legislated
3 Apr 26	Good Friday	Luke 22:47-23:49	Psalms 31:3-5, 9-14	Arrest, execution; Prayer for deliverance
4 Apr 26	Holy Saturday	Luke 23:50-56	2 Chronicles 16:13-14	Burial of Jesus; Example of burial (Asa)
5 Apr 26	Easter Day	Luke 24:1-12	Psalms 126	At the tomb; Song of joy
12 Apr 26	Easter 2	Luke 24:13-35	1 Corinthians 10:12-17	Road to Emmaus; Partake of the one bread

Note that the double-lined breaks in the table delineate between issues.

Date	Liturgical	Primary Text	Support Text	Notes
The Ministry Of Jesus				
19 Apr 26	Easter 3	Luke 3:1-22(23-38)	Isaiah 42:1-9	John with Jesus' baptism; The Servant and light to the nations
26 Apr 26	Easter 4	Luke 4:1-15	Deuteronomy 8:1-6	Jesus' temptation; Lessons from 40 years in the wilderness
3 May 26	Easter 5	Luke 4:14-30	1 Kings 17:8-16	Jesus preaching in the synagogue; Elijah and widow of Zarephath
10 May 26	Easter 6	Luke 4:31-44	2 Corinthians 5:11-15	Jesus healing and teaching; Ministry of reconciliation
17 May 26	Easter 7	Luke 5:1-11,27-28; 6:12-17	Acts 6:1-7	Jesus calling disciples; The community leadership grows
24 May 26	Pentecost	Luke 5:12-16	Acts 2:1-11	Jesus heals a leper; Pentecost spirit visits
31 May 26	Pentecost 1 (Trinity)	Luke 5:17-26	Leviticus 24:10-16	Healing of paralysed man; An example of blasphemy punished
7 Jun 26	Pentecost 2	Luke 5:29-39	Isaiah 58:3-9a	Fasting / old and new; On true fasting
14 Jun 26	Pentecost 3	Luke 6:17-31	Psalms 63	Blessings and woes; Comfort in God's presence
21 Jun 26	Pentecost 4	Luke 6:27-42	Acts 9:9-20	Do not judge / speck and plank; Saul/Paul transformed
28 Jun 26	Pentecost 5	Luke 6:43-49	James 1:2-11,22-25	Good/bad fruit/foundations; Poverty and riches, be a doer
5 Jul 26	Pentecost 6	Luke 7:1-23	Acts 10:1-35	Healing of centurion, raising of widow's son; Peter and centurion
12 Jul 26	Pentecost 7	Luke 7:24-50; 8:1-4	Exodus 30:17-21	Jesus deals with question, anointing; The bronze basin
19 Jul 26	Pentecost 8	Luke 8:4-21	Galatians 5:22-26	Parable of sower and explanation; Fruit of the Spirit
26 Jul 26	Pentecost 9	Luke 8:22-56	Psalms 107:23-32	Commanding the waters / healings; The Lord's control over chaos
2 Aug 26	Pentecost 10	Luke 9:1-20	Numbers 11:21-23	Jesus teaching and feeding multitude; Moses doubts God's power
9 Aug 26	Pentecost 11	Luke 9:37-50	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	Faithless and perverse generation; A life pleasing to God
16 Aug 26	Pentecost 12	Luke 9:51-10:24	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	Jesus sets face to Jerusalem, mission of 70; Pairing up
23 Aug 26	Pentecost 13	Luke 10:25-42	Leviticus 19:11-18	Parable of Good Samaritan and Mary & Martha; Moral holiness
30 Aug 26	Pentecost 14	Luke 11:1-13,24-28,33-36	Philippians 4:4-8	Jesus praying, admired, do not hide your light; Exhortations
6 Sep 26	Pentecost 15	Luke 12:1-34	1 Corinthians 5:6-8	Crowds trampling to hear Jesus; On yeast
13 Sep 26	Pentecost 16	Luke 12:35-48,57-59	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Watchfulness and preparation; Prepared for the day of the Lord
20 Sep 26	Pentecost 17	Luke 13:10-35	Acts 8:14-24	Healing and words about the Kingdom; Buying your way to blessing
27 Sep 26	Pentecost 18	Luke 14:1-24	Proverbs 25:6-7	Healing, parables of humility; Do not put yourself forward
4 Oct 26	Pentecost 19	Luke 14:25-35	Colossians 4:2-6	Cost of discipleship; Let your speech be gracious
11 Oct 26	Pentecost 20	Luke 15:11-16:13	Genesis 27:30-38	Parable of prodigal / dishonest manager; Esau's lost blessing
18 Oct 26	Pentecost 21	Luke 16:14-31	Psalms 19	Rich man and Lazarus, the Law and the Kingdom; Perfect Law
25 Oct 26	Pentecost 22	Luke 17:1-21	Leviticus 13:45-46	Sayings, cleansing of lepers, coming Kingdom; Unclean
1 Nov 26	Pentecost 23	Luke 18:1-30	Hebrews 13:1-8	Unjust judge, persistent widow, rich young ruler; Contentment
8 Nov 26	Pentecost 24	Luke 18:35-19:10	Numbers 5:5-7	Blind beggar, Zacchaeus; Restitution
15 Nov 26	Pentecost 25	Luke 19:11-27	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Parable of the ten pounds; Servants and stewards
22 Nov 26	Reign of Christ	Luke 24:36-53	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Jesus' commission of disciples; The good news flows on
LUKAN LECTIONARY YEAR 2: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES				
Introduction				
29 Nov 26	Advent 1	Acts 1:1-14	Isaiah 64:1-9	The promise of the Holy Spirit/Ascension; Prayer of penitence
6 Dec 26	Advent 2	Acts 1:15-26	2 Peter 3:8-16a	Matthias chosen to replace Judas; Promise of the Lord's coming
In Jerusalem				
13 Dec 26	Advent 3	Acts 2:12-21	Luke 1:46-55	Peter addressing the crowd; Mary's song of praise
20 Dec 26	Advent 4	Acts 2:22-36	Matthew 1:1-17	Peter's sermon continues; The genealogy of Jesus
25 Dec 26	Christmas Day	Acts 2:37-39	Matthew 1:18-25 and/or Luke 2:1-20	Peter's sermon closes; The birth of Jesus
27 Dec 26	Christmas 1	Acts 2:40-42	Galatians 3:23-29	The first converts; Children of God through faith
3 Jan 27	Christmas 2	Acts 2:43-47	Matthew 2:1-15	Life among the believers; The visit of the Magi
10 Jan 27	Epiphany 1	Acts 3:1-11	Matthew 9:1-8	Peter heals a crippled beggar; Jesus heals a paralytic
17 Jan 27	Epiphany 2	Acts 3:12-26	Matthew 3:1-17	Peter speaks in Solomon's Portico; John the Baptist's proclamation
24 Jan 27	Epiphany 3	Acts 4:1-22	Matthew 4:1-11	Peter and John before the Council; Testing of Jesus
31 Jan 27	Epiphany 4	Acts 4:23-37	Hebrews 10:19-25	The believers pray for boldness; A call to perseverance
7 Feb 27	Transfiguration	Acts 5:12-16	Mark 9:2-13	The apostles heal many; The Transfiguration



Date	Liturgical	Primary Text	Support Text	Notes
LUKAN LECTIONARY YEAR 2: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (continued)				
14 Feb 27	Lent 1	Acts 5:1-11	Micah 6:6-8	Ananias and Sapphira; What God requires
21 Feb 27	Lent 2	Acts 5:17-33	John 11:45-53	The Apostles are persecuted; The plot to kill Jesus
28 Feb 27	Lent 3	Acts 5:33-42	Psalms 37:1-11	Gamaliel's intervention; Exhortation to patience and trust
7 Mar 27	Lent 4	Acts 6:1-7	Psalms 37:12-27	Seven chosen to serve; Comparisons between righteous & wicked
14 Mar 27	Lent 5	Acts 6:8-15	Psalms 37:28-40	The arrest of Stephen; On justice
21 Mar 27	Palms/Passion	Acts 7:1-16	Mark 11:1-11	Stephen begins to address the Council; Jesus' entry to Jerusalem
22 Mar 27	Holy Week Monday	Acts 7:17-29	Psalms 24:1-2	Stephen speaks about Moses; The earth is the Lord's
23 Mar 27	Holy Week Tuesday	Acts 7:30-34	Psalms 24:1-4	Theophany on the mountain; Who shall ascend?
24 Mar 27	Holy Week Wed	Acts 7:35-43	Psalms 24:1-6	God uses Moses; Blessing from the Lord
25 Mar 27	Maundy Thursday	Acts 7:44-53	Psalms 24:1-8	Stephen challenges those who oppose God; Lift up your heads
26 Mar 27	Good Friday	Acts 7:54-8:1	Psalms 24:1-10	The stoning of Stephen; Who is this King of glory?
27 Mar 27	Holy Saturday	Acts 8:2-3	Mark 15:42-47	The burial of Stephen and Saul's violence; The burial of Jesus
28 Mar 27	Easter Day	Acts 9:32-42	Mark 16:1-8	Healing and raising from death by Peter; The resurrection of Jesus
In Judea And Samaria				
4 Apr 27	Easter 2	Acts 8:4-25	Mark 16:9-13	Philip preaches in Samaria; Jesus' appearances
11 Apr 27	Easter 3	Acts 8:25-40	2 Timothy 3:10-17	Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch; Paul's charge to Timothy
18 Apr 27	Easter 4	Acts 9:1-19a	2 Kings 5:1-14	The conversion of Saul; The healing of Naaman
25 Apr 27	Easter 5	Acts 9:19b-31	Matthew 13:54-58	Saul's new ministry begins; The rejection of Jesus in Nazareth
2 May 27	Easter 6	Acts 9:43-10:33	Leviticus 11:1-12	Peter and Cornelius; Clean and unclean foods
9 May 27	Easter 7	Acts 10:34-43	Romans 2:6-11	Gentiles hear the Good News; God shows no partiality
16 May 27	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-13	Acts 10:44-48	The coming of the Holy Spirit; Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
23 May 27	Pentecost 1 (Trinity)	Acts 11:1-18	1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Peter's report to the Church in Jerusalem; Divisions in the Church
30 May 27	Pentecost 2	Acts 11:19-12:5	Deuteronomy 11:18-21	The Church in Antioch, James killed, Peter imprisoned; The Shema
6 Jun 27	Pentecost 3	Acts 12:6-13:3	Revelation 3:19b-22	Peter delivered from prison; I am standing at the door, knocking
The Missionary Journeys				
13 Jun 27	Pentecost 4	Acts 13:4-52	1 Samuel 8	Preaching in Cyprus, Paul and Barnabas in Antioch; Israel demands a king
20 Jun 27	Pentecost 5	Acts 14:1-28	Daniel 2:24-29	In Iconium, Lystra, Derbe and back to Antioch; Daniel's dream interpretation
27 Jun 27	Pentecost 6	Acts 15:1-35	Galatians 2:15-21	The Council at Jerusalem; Jews and Gentiles saved by faith
4 Jul 27	Pentecost 7	Acts 15:36-16:10	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Paul and Barnabas separate, Timothy joins Paul and Silas; The Thessalonians faith and example
11 Jul 27	Pentecost 8	Acts 16:11-40	Isaiah 61:1-3	Conversion of Lydia, Paul and Silas in prison; Good news of deliverance
18 Jul 27	Pentecost 9	Acts 17:1-15	1 Thessalonians 2:13-16	Uproar in Thessalonica; Giving thanks for the Thessalonian believers
25 Jul 27	Pentecost 10	Acts 17:16-34	2 Corinthians 4:1-6	Paul in Athens; We do not lose heart
1 Aug 27	Pentecost 11	Acts 18:1-23	1 Corinthians 2:1-5	Paul in Corinth; Proclaiming Christ crucified
8 Aug 27	Pentecost 12	Acts 18:24-19:20	Jeremiah 33:6-9	Ministry of Apollos, Paul in Ephesus; Healing after punishment
15 Aug 27	Pentecost 13	Acts 19:21-41	Proverbs 29:8,22,25-26	The riot in Ephesus; Wisdom sayings
22 Aug 27	Pentecost 14	Acts 20:1-16	Daniel 12:1-3	Paul visits Macedonia and Greece, sleepy Eutychus; Awakening to eternal life
29 Aug 27	Pentecost 15	Acts 20:17-38	Ezekiel 34:23-31	Paul speaks to the Ephesian elders; The one shepherd
Paul's Witness Spreads To Rome				
5 Sep 27	Pentecost 16	Acts 21:1-26	Galatians 2:1-5	Paul's journey to Jerusalem, visit with James; Paul and the disciples
12 Sep 27	Pentecost 17	Acts 21:27-22:5	John 18:1-11	Paul arrested in the Temple, defends himself; Betrayal of Jesus
19 Sep 27	Pentecost 18	Acts 22:6-29	John 18:28-38	Paul continues his defense, pulls the Roman citizen card; Jesus before Pilate
26 Sep 27	Pentecost 19	Acts 22:30-23:22	Mark 12:18-27	Paul before the Council, plots to kill Paul; Sadducees try to catch out Jesus
3 Oct 27	Pentecost 20	Acts 23:23-35	Joshua 1:1-9	Paul sent to Felix the Governor; God's commission to Joshua
10 Oct 27	Pentecost 21	Acts 24:1-27	1 Timothy 1:1-7	Paul before Felix at Caesarea; Warning against false teachers
17 Oct 27	Pentecost 22	Acts 25:1-22	John 18:12-14,19-24	Paul appears to the Emperor, Festus consults King Agrippa; Jesus before the High Priest
24 Oct 27	Pentecost 23	Acts 25:23-27	John 18:38-40	Paul brought before King Agrippa; Jesus sentenced to death
31 Oct 27	Pentecost 24	Acts 26:1-32	Luke 21:12-15	Paul defends himself before Agrippa, tries to convert the king; Persecutions of the faithful
7 Nov 27	Pentecost 25	Acts 27:1-44	Jonah 1:1-17	Paul sails for Rome, stormy seas and shipwreck; Jonah tries to flee
14 Nov 27	Pentecost 26	Acts 28:1-10	Psalms 91:11-16	Paul on Malta; God's protection
21 Nov 27	Reign of Christ	Acts 28:11-31	Isaiah 6:6-13	Paul in Rome; Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?

jesus prays

Pentecost 14

Sunday 30 August 2026

Lukan Lectionary Year 1

The Gospel of Luke

The Ministry of Jesus

Scripture

Luke 11:1-13,24-28,33-36

Philippians 4:4-9

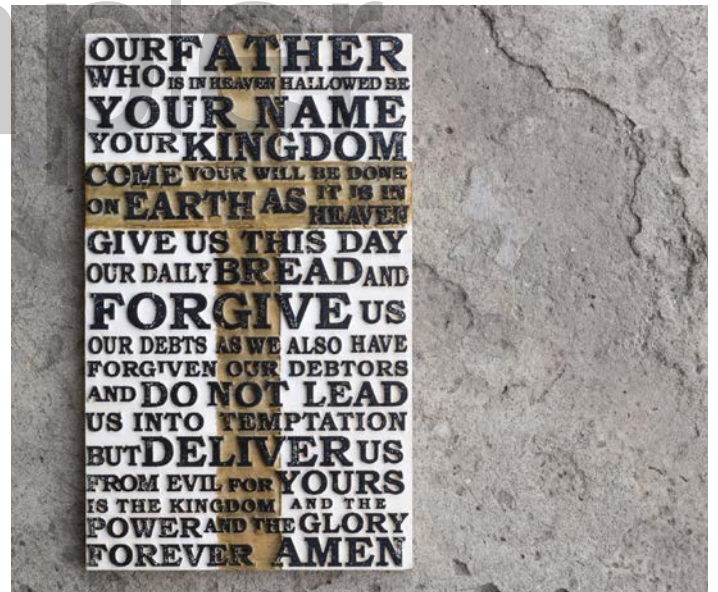
tell the story

Bible Notes

At a recent conference day focusing on the use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT), clergy and church elders were provided with a prayer created by one of these tools in response to the request "I am feeling down. Can you pray for me..." ChatGPT, in this instance, had no hesitation in providing a prayer. It went further and offered "I can also stay with you and talk a bit about what's been weighing on you." That is part of its designed-in methodology to continue engagement with users.

What a fascinating contrast to Jesus' followers' appeal to him to "teach us to pray". Who would we rather take guidance from? Jesus or ChatGPT? Before we too readily respond to that question, it is worth noting that a significant proportion of ChatGPT users have regularly turned to its conversational responses when seeking emotional support.

Jesus, in response to the request of his followers, does not shirk from his responsibilities and provides a wonderfully succinct and clear model, even more so in Luke's gospel than in the more developed Matthean version. That model would not have been unusual to those who had grown up 'in the faith' as good Jews, but Jesus inevitably adds his own twist. 'Our Father...' we are so used to saying that we lost the sharp contrast to the way Jesus starts his prayer in comparison to what people would have known. 'Father' for most, as it still is for many in the world today (a whole further discussion to be had here), would bring to mind a figure of authority, and one who demands obedience from his children. But the word Jesus uses, 'Abba', has a very different sense. This is much more personal, more intimate, and emphasises a supportive and encouraging sense of



fatherhood.

What follows is a prayer that invites us both into a recognition of the presence of God in our lives, but also of the otherness of God, his holy nature. It deals with practicalities like daily needs, but also considers creation-wide expectation of a coming kingdom. It recognises our own need for grace and forgiveness, and puts that into a whole community perspective where our responses to others becomes a part of making the kingdom of God real. It also is realistic that in any given time or place there will be challenges that confront us, times of trial that test our perseverance and ability to hold fast to what is good, what is godly, what reveals grace.

Jesus goes on to use some colloquial stories to emphasise perseverance in prayer, as Luke shares these stories. In his alternative readings of many of the parables, William Herzog tries to draw us back to the rural setting of so many of Jesus' stories. In this retelling of the story of a friend seeking out some bread from a neighbour, the story is not so much about perseverance in prayer, but rather a call to solidarity amongst a poor rural community where subsistence living is the daily experience and where sometimes one's daily bread was not easy to find, creating a reliance on the community to support one another when times of need arose, such as the arrival of an unexpected guest.

These teachings about prayer and how prayer and action are entwined in a healthy faithful life find their challenge in the description of an unclean spirit (verses 24-26) returning to a person who has 'cleaned house' in their life. When we make decisions about what our priorities are, trying to live more gently in creation, deciding to follow in Jesus' Way, then inevitably there come threats to that way of living. In the language of this passage these unclean spirits try to revert us to former ways of living, ruining advances we have made.

These spirits would seek to quench the fires of the godly light that shines in the lives of the faithful (verses 33-36). Note that there was some understanding at the time this was written that the eyes created their own light in order to see in the darkness. Long before we were encouraged to eat our carrots to see in the dark! For us, trying to live a life of faith, then Jesus becomes the light-bearer, he is the light that guides us through the challenges of life. In him we trust.

Story Retelling

Teach Us To Pray

Andy: Hey, Ada, are you any good at praying?

Ada: Well Andy, I try my best to persist with praying every day, but it is not easy.

Andy: Ada, I must confess, I find prayer really hard! I seem to lose concentration, and sometimes when the minister goes on and on, I have been known to doze off, fall asleep! Ye ken what I am saying?

Ada: Oh, I understand what you are saying, Andy, but don't give up.

Andy: But you know I am not very good with words, and how I get a bit tongue tied when I am asked to pray.

Ada: Well, Andy, you manage to recite the Airdrie 1924 Cup winning team off by heart, so why don't you recite the Jesus Prayer?

Andy: I did'nae know Jesus had a special prayer?

Ada: Aye, Andy, the disciples asked Jesus to teach

them how to pray, and without breaking breath he said this is how to pray.

Andy: Do you mean the Our Father prayer?

Ada: That's the one.

Andy: Aye I ken that one.

Ada: Well lets pray that one together

Both: 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
for ever. Amen

Andy: Aye Ada, I learned that in primary school and we said it every week in Sunday school.

Ada: It's a prayer we all know and can say when we need to pray and cannot find other words.

Andy: I know Ada, and it can act as a model of how to pray, as it honours God, reminds us to do Gods will, speaks of where our food comes from, reminds us to forgive people who have wronged us, warns us to overcome evil, and finishes with a declaration of Gods power over all!

Ada: Well, if you know the model so well, why do you find it so hard to pray, Andy?

Andy: Well, you know, the minister always does such lovely prayers, and (s)he has been trained in prayer.

Ada: And why is that a problem?

Andy: Well, it just seems polished, and proper, and learned!

Ada: But God does not look for liturgical brilliance, he just listens to our prayer to discover what we need. The Minister will not always know what you need, but God is able to understand you perfectly well.

Andy: Really, Ada? Do you think God has time to listen to my prayers, when there are lots of more important things in the world that deserve to have their prayers answered?

Ada: Of course, Andy, God listens to us all. He doesn't set a priority list, God simply responds to our needs!

Andy: So, are you saying that all prayers matter?

Ada: That's exactly what I am saying. Prayer is not an academic exercise in Old English, nor does it matter how many times we mention the word 'Lord', thinking that word alone makes a better prayer or even makes it sound religious. Prayer is a word, an expression of hope, a plea for justice, or a cry of mercy.

Andy: So, the Lord's Prayer is not the only prayer that matters?

Ada: No, Andy, it matters but it is like every other prayer as we express that our wishes become God's wishes!

Andy: So those disciples that asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, simply wanted a prayer that they could model their own prayer life?

Ada: That's part of it, Andy, but prayer comes in many shapes and form, and we should not dismiss any format of prayer, when it comes from the depth of our heart and soul.

Andy: Amen to that Ada!

Discussion Starters

Gather a list of famous prayers and have them printed so that groups will have copies of them. These might include The Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr ('God grant me the serenity...'), The Prayer of St Francis ('Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...'), St Patrick's Breastplate ('Christ with me, Christ before me...'), a traditional Celtic blessing (for example 'May the road rise up to meet you...'), and, of course, the Lord's prayer in a variety of versions from Luke's simple version to the traditional versions we use in communal worship.

- What common themes do you find in the prayers that you have studied?
- Have you used these prayers yourself? In what context did you find them most helpful?
- How does the Lord's Prayer compare or contrast with other famous prayers?
- What do you make of the different versions of the Lord's Prayer?

Read together Luke 11:1-13. This places into some context the prayer that Jesus offers to his disciples as a model for their prayer life, a pattern for how to think about prayer. Luke's account goes on to give some stories that may (or may not originally!) be related to prayer.

- What part does prayer play in your daily life of faith?
- What forms of prayer do you use?
- How are prayer and action linked in the life of a disciple of Christ?

- What are the differences between private prayer and corporate prayer?

Read together Luke 11:24-28,33-36. Here we have a collection of sayings of Jesus based around unclean spirits and the imagery of light and sight. Take some time to think about what these sayings might mean for us today, or, indeed, what people would have taken from them in Jesus' own time and context. You may want to discuss the use of light/dark metaphors for good/bad and how this may be perceived by others, particularly how it has been utilised by some to degrade others.

- What are the things (spiritual or otherwise) that distract us from faithful living?
- What can we do to prevent ourselves from such challenges?
- How well does the light/dark metaphor work today?
- What other metaphors might be helpful in our current setting?

Work together to create a short prayer taking account of what you have discussed today.

On This Day

1146 European leaders outlaw the crossbow, intending to end war for all time.

1791 The British Ordnance Survey (mapping agency) was founded.

1901 Scottish inventor Hubert Cecil Booth patented the vacuum cleaner.

1939 In anticipation of German bombing, the great evacuation of children from British cities began, four days before the outbreak of World War II.

1991 Dundee runner, Liz McColgan, won the World 10,000 metres final by more than 20 secs. This was perhaps the crowning moment of a glittering athletics career for McColgan, which also brought her two Olympic silver medals. A former jute mill worker from a deprived housing estate in the city, McColgan rose from obscurity to become the leading Scottish athlete of her day, triumphing on home soil by winning gold at the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

2020 Eyam Parish Church held its Annual Plague Commemoration Service on-line (11.00am) on the Eyam Church Facebook page because of the world coronavirus pandemic. The plague came to this Derbyshire village in 1665 and there are many parallels with the 2020 COVID-19 epidemic. Generally, the annual service is held at Cucklett Delf, an open space close to the village, as it was during the plague epidemic but, in 2001 because of 'Foot and Mouth' the service was held, ironically, in the church itself as most farmland that year was declared out of bounds.

explore the story

Engaging The Text

Introduction

Across the season of this issue we are offering as a way to engage the text a reflection on the kindling of the light as the seasons change from late summer through autumn into winter (at least in the northern hemisphere!). Each session takes about ten minutes within the regular service and by the end of each, a new lantern will have been created. The ritual is the same for the next thirteen weeks so that it becomes familiar, providing a kind of homecoming each week.

Building A Lantern

Each week, the congregation makes a tissue paper lantern from a simple 2 litre straight-sided plastic bottle with its top and bottom removed. The tissue panels need to be small (A7 sized), then you can get 8 of these around a 2 litre bottle, with one bottle per group. These are wrapped around the bottle and are held with sticky tape. An LED tea-light is placed inside and switched on. You may need to make a couple of lanterns each week depending on the size of your congregation.

Each week's lantern stands alongside all the previous weeks' lanterns. By the final session, thirteen lanterns stand together. On Reign of Christ Sunday, all are lit simultaneously, the lights are dimmed, and the congregation sits briefly in the light they have made together before processing out.

Materials Required Each Week

- One 2 litre plastic bottle, straight-sided, top and bottom cut off (prepare in advance; tape or fold back cut edges for safety)
- Pre-cut A7 tissue paper panels — enough for one per group (different colour each week — see colour guide below)
- One black or dark wax crayon or soft pencil per pew or group
- Clear tape or elastic bands to secure panels to the bottle
- One LED tea-light per week (safe, universally available, reusable)

For Individuals

This activity can also be done by individuals who mark their own A7 sheet and take it home creating a weekly panel on their own, but each group chooses a picture or word or symbol between them, after a short discussion, to mark a separate A7 panel which will be used to place round the lantern.

Tissue Colour Guide

The colour of the tissue follows the arc of the season, from warm summer golds moving through autumn ambers and rusts into the deep purples and blues of November, ending in white. This is not merely decorative: the changing colours enact the passage of time and the movement of the gospel through the year.

Pale Yellow	Pentecost 14 - Luke 11 (selected)
Warm Gold	Pentecost 15 - Luke 12:1-34
Amber	Pentecost 16 - Luke 12:35-48
Green	Pentecost 17 - Luke 13:10-35
Deep Gold	Pentecost 18 - Luke 14:1-24
Rust	Pentecost 19 - Luke 14:25-35
Warm Orange	Pentecost 20 - Luke 15:11-16:13
Deep Red	Pentecost 21 - Luke 16:14-31
Silver	Pentecost 22 - Luke 17:1-21
Deep Purple	Pentecost 23 - Luke 18:1-30
Deep Blue	Pentecost 24 - Luke 18:35-19:10
Indigo	Pentecost 25 - Luke 19:11-27
White	Reign of Christ - Luke 24:36-53

A Repeated Ritual

The same words are spoken every week without variation. You will find them in the material each time. By the third or fourth week they will be recognised. By the seventh they will be expected. By the thirteenth they will be beloved. Repetition is not the enemy of meaning. It is how meaning is made.

This Week

You will need: pale yellow tissue, an A7 size sheet for everyone, 2 litre plastic bottle (prepared), black or dark crayons or fibre pens for everyone, sticky tape.

Create eight groups (or 16/24 if you have a much larger gathering, though you will need extra bottles in this case).

Opening

Leader: We are gathered, into the light.

**All: What are we being asked to see?
What have we been missing?**

The Passage

Read this at least twice, slowly, different voices, emphasising different words.

*Your eye is the lamp of your body.
When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light.*

The Question

- What have you been asking for, without noticing the answer was already near?

The Making

Each person creates a design, symbol, word on their own A7 tissue sheet. It should be something they have been looking for. It may be a word, a shape, an open hand, a door ajar. There is no wrong answer.

Then, as a group look at what people have marked. Choose one image or word that holds what the group noticed. One person draws or writes it on the group panel.

The Lighting

Someone from each group moves to the bottle and attaches their group's panel. The LED tea-light is placed inside and switched on. Then these words are projected or printed out and spoken together:

Leader: The light is lit.

**All: We have marked
what we are learning to see.
We place it in the light.
May it mark a way
and a place for us all to gather.**

Background

Jesus begins not with answers but with a practice: ask, seek, knock. This is not transactional, but a description of what attentiveness looks like. The light Jesus speaks of is not supernatural illumination but the recovered capacity to see what was always there. The lamp is the eye. The eye is already in each of us.

Daily Bread

You will need: paper napkins, wet wipes, bread sticks, knives, jam, spreading cheese, empty yoghurt tubs or similar.

Divide jam and spreading cheese into smaller portions and place in yoghurt tubs to allow everyone easy access to these. Ask participants to clean their hands with wet wipes. Give each participant a paper napkin and ask them to lay it out flat in front of them. Give participants a few breadsticks each and ask them to break the breadsticks into smaller pieces and to form their name out of bread sticks, laying them on the paper napkin and using jam or spreading cheese to stick the sections of breadstick together to form letters.

Talk about the Lord's prayer and in particular the line about 'daily bread'. Discuss what this means to people and spend some time thinking about the things we receive from God daily and give thanks for them.

Framed Lord's Prayer

You will need: craft sticks, small stickers, sticky gems, glue dots, string or narrow ribbon, sticky tape, scissors, glue sticks, thick card (A5 size), copies of Lord's Prayer printed onto A5 sheet.

Give each participant a copy of the Lord's Prayer and ask them to cut this out and stick it onto the centre of their sheet of thick card. Participants should make a frame by sticking craft sticks onto the card, overlapping as necessary (it is easier to secure the craft sticks to the card and to each other using glue dots rather than glue sticks or PVA glue). Participants should then decorate the frame using stickers, sticky gems and so on. Ask participants to make a hanging loop using wool or ribbon and then to attach the loop to the back of the picture using sticky tape.

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. Talk about the Lord's prayer as a pattern for prayer and discuss how participants use the Lord's prayer in their lives.

Collage Lord's Prayer

You will need: canvas boards, acrylic paints, paint brushes, plates to squeeze paints onto, small collage items (such as feathers, shells, sticky gems, stickers, beads), scissors, sticky tape, glue sticks, PVA glue, glue spreaders, Lord's Prayer printed onto A5 card.

Give each participant a canvas and ask them to colour the canvas using either paints or marker pens and in which ever colours/design they wish. Allow paint to dry. Give each participant a copy of the Lord's prayer, ask them to cut it out and stick it onto the canvas. Ask them to decorate around the printed prayer using collage materials. Note that Sharpie pens could be used instead of acrylic paints.

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. Talk about the Lord's prayer as a pattern for prayer and discuss how participants use the Lord's prayer in their lives.



Ask, Ask, Pray

You will need: space to move around.

Inspired by 'Duck, Duck, Goose'. Ask the children to sit in a circle on the floor. Ask for a volunteer to be 'IT'. The designated IT walks around the outside of the circle and gently taps the shoulders or heads of those in the circle, saying 'ask' or 'pray'. The person they tap and say 'pray' to then stands up and chases the person who is 'IT' around the circle and back to the space left empty. That person now becomes 'IT'. Repeat until everyone has had a turn of being 'IT'.

Talk about Jesus' teaching on prayer from Luke 11 and the importance of keeping on praying even when it is hard in prayer.

The Lamps Are Lit Lotto

You will need: paper cups, battery tea lights and printed images of light bulbs or candles cut out to fit under cup, tables.

Divide participants into groups of 4/5. Each group should have about 20 cups, 4 tea lights and 4 pictures. Place tea lights and pictures on table and then put cups upside down, covering the tea lights and pictures. Place rest of cups on table upside down and move cups around so that tea lights and pictures are in random positions. Participants take it in turns to lift two cups each. Each person is trying to find a pair: made up of one tea light and one picture. The participant lifts two cups to reveal what is underneath. If they get a pair, they keep that pair, (and the cups are removed from the game) if not they replace the cups in the same position. Other players are trying to remember where the tea lights and pictures are so that when it comes to their turn, they can lift cups which have a tea light and a picture underneath and 'win' a pair. Repeat until all the pairs have been found.

Talk about Luke 11:33-36 and what they mean. Discuss ways we can show and share God's light.

Snakes And Fish

You will need: borrow a few sets of the board game 'Snakes and Ladders', dice, small fish shapes cut from card to use as counters for the game.

Divide participants into groups of 3/4 and give each group a Snakes and ladders game and card fish in different colours to use as counters or markers. Ask participants to play the game, moving their fish along the board and up the ladders and down the snakes until someone reaches the top of the board or until time runs out

Talk about the contrast between the fish and the snake (Luke 11:11-13) and how God gives good things to those who ask. Discuss what it means to be patient and persistent in prayer and about God's goodness to us.



live the story

Call To Worship

We pause,
find space,
seek the moment.

We breathe,
centre ourselves
on what is holy.

We find the silence
before the words:
Let us worship.

Prayer Of Dedication

Gracious Lord,
you provide for our daily bread,
and we give thanks daily.
We bring back to you
but a portion of
your generosity
in our gifts.

We do so with grateful hearts
for all that
we have been given
and for all that
we can share with others.

May your kingdom come
ever closer with this offering.
Bless these gifts and the givers
multiplying the efforts to grow
into heaven on earth.
In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.

Prayer Of Adoration And Confession

Father, Abba, Papa, Daddy,
may your name be revered as holy,
not only today, but tomorrow
and the next day.

We are grateful that you adopt us
into your family
and introduce us
to brothers and sisters
far and wide.
We worship and pray together
with those in the space near to us
and those across the oceans of the world.

Merciful God,
you offer abundant care
and generosity beyond measure
in forgiveness of sins.

We bring before you now
confessions of acts we wish
we did not commit...

silence

and activities we should have initiated
but we failed to do so...

silence

for ignoring people we have not loved
that you call us to love...

silence

and for those we do love
but we treat with lack of compassion...

silence

We aim to do what
we have learned
and received
and heard
and noticed in you.

We rejoice that you are near,
that you are generous
and look on us in compassion.
May we be as generous
as we look to forgive
those who have slighted us.

May we continue to pray daily
perhaps on our own,
but always with others
using the words
you taught your disciples...
Our Father...

Prayers For Others And Ourselves

Most Holy One,
you taught us to pray
'And do not bring us to the time of trial'
so we come humbly to you in prayer.
And Paul reminds us in everything
by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving
let your requests be known.

We give you thanks
for every breath granted,
for each new day of possibility
for the beauty of creation,
the myriad colours and uniqueness of life.

We recognise the hope of the coming kingdom
in which we are called to live
and we are utterly grateful.

Comforting God,
we also live under
the strain of uncertainty,
We pray for your intervention
in affairs that need straightening,
where injustice prevails
and where your children are hungry
for not only righteousness,
but also for daily bread.

Our leaders promise
to work for the good of many
but in practise,
often choose the good of the few.
Our societies are skewed
with such a gap
between those who have
and those who have not.
We pray for more equitable
distribution of goods and wealth
throughout the world,
and may countries share
as individuals in communities share.

Your church, Lord,
across this world
is built on relationship.
Relationship with Jesus,
and invitations of your disciples
to spread and share this great love.
Fill your church with gratitude
and appreciation
for our common heritage.
Embolden your disciples
to pray persistently
for the growth of your Kingdom
as we are taught.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Reflective Prayer

"Ask and it will be given you."
We often hear that when we pray,
but, Lord, we forget the next part,
how much more
will the heavenly Father
give the Holy Spirit.
Teach us to Pray.

Lord, when we ask
persistently in your name,
we do so want to follow your will,
we want to discern your way
and ask for those things
that bring about your kingdom.
Teach us to pray.

We sometimes assume you do not answer
when what we request fails to appear.
Help us accept what we are given,
help us understand your will and your way,
and to seek the Holy Spirit in all that we do.

Teach us to pray,
'your will be done...'
in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Reflection

Voice 1: Give me something, Lord,
just give me something, please.

Aye, give me something, Lord.
you said to ask and it will be given to me.

So I'm praying to win the lottery!
And asking God to help me
to get my hands on the wealth
of my rich elderly Aunt.

Gimmee, gimmee, gimmee, gimmee!
Gimmee, gimmee, gimmee, gimmee!

Voice 2: Hang on!
God is not a slotting machine
where you can put in prayers
and pull his arm to see
if you get three bells in a row
or five angels lined up
and you will get your answers...
It does not work like that.

Voice 3: The content of prayer,
the Lord's Prayer,
intimate,
a living relationship with God,
not a machine we want to control.

Persistence does not mean wearing God down
but trusting in God's willingness
to give good things,
our lives transforming in God's presence,
with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Sending

Blessed are those who hear
the word of God and obey it.

Go out praying persistently,
and shine your light on a lampstand
for all the world to see your love of Jesus.

Rejoice and do not worry,
you are loved by God.

Praise/Hymns

Bring it all to me	GWA 62
God our Father, King of heaven	GWA 66
Here, as we meet	GWA 63
If you believe and I believe	CH4 771
Jesus bids us shine	JP 128
Lord, teach us how to pray aright	CH4 545
Make me a channel	CH4 528 / MP 456
New ev'ry morning is the love	CH4 214 / MP 480
O God of Bethel, by whose hand	CH4 268 / MP 907
Pray, without ceasing, pray	STF 528
Prayer is the soul's sincere desire	CH4 546 / MP 567
Seek ye first	CH 641 / MP 590
The Lord's prayer	MP 552/661/917
This little light of mine	JP 258
Thou, whose almighty word	CH4 112 / MP 699
Thy kingdom come! on bended knee	CH4 473
What a friend we have in Jesus	CH4 547 / MP 746
Whoever you are, your prayer is welcome	GWA 61



sampler

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