

Please join us in this, the first of our  
**Explorations into Our Calling**  
 We are building on the reflections in previous years:  
 "Jesus-Shaped People" in 2014/5  
 "The Spirit-Filled Church" in 2016  
 "Parables for Baildon" in 2017/8  
 "Christian Values" in 2019



Come with us, Lord Jesus;  
 Fill us with your Spirit;  
 Shape us to your likeness;  
 Use us to enfold with love our needy world.



# Our Calling



All Bible passages are quoted from "The Message" by Eugene H Patterson

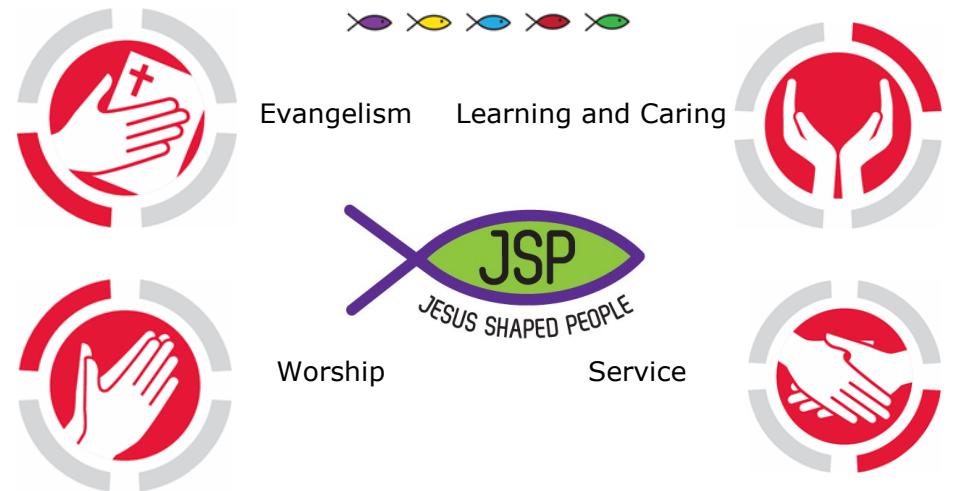
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 Join us!



Loving God. Loving People. Loving the World.

## An Exploration of Our Calling



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 Join us!

January 5th 2020

Your notes here...



**Sunday worship led by**  
**Mervyn Lay Pastor**

# Worship: week I

What makes worship worthwhile?

After-Church Reflections

## This week's challenge

Explain to myself why I bother with worship.

What's in it for me?

How can I persuade others that worship is worthwhile?

Does God need to be worshipped?

God whom I worship,  
Meet me as I muse over the value of that worship.  
Help me to reflect on words and music,  
Context and congregation,  
And give me an attitude that is open and generous.  
Amen

**Loving Jesus, let us step out with  
you in faith**

**Grant us understanding to know  
what we need to do**

**Grant us courage to go where we  
are needed**

**Grant us strength to face our  
difficulties**

**Grant us determination to  
overcome our disappointments**

**Grant us wisdom to serve you  
well**

**Lord Jesus, let us step out with  
you in faith**

**So that your light shines far  
beyond our way**

**Bringing your truth to many**

*Andrea Davis*

## **Romans 12:1-4**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind

## **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Christianity preaches the infinite worth of that which is seemingly worthless and the infinite worthlessness of that which is seemingly so valued

## **Hubert Reeves**

Man is the most insane species. He worships an invisible God and destroys a visible Nature. Unaware that this Nature he's destroying is this God he's worshipping

## **John 4:21-24**

Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem... the time is coming...when what you're called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter. It's who you are, and the way you live, that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth... The Father is out looking for those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship... Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration



January 12th 2020

Sunday All-Age worship led  
by  
**Claire Nott**

## Worship: week 2

Filling worship with Awe, Wonder, and Love

After-Church Reflections

### This week's challenge

Can I worship just singing and listening?  
What is the value of familiar repetition in worship?  
How can worship be led by the Spirit?  
If I am angry, resentful, or feeling bad, can I still worship?

God beyond my words,  
Touch my heart with your love, and my life  
with your presence.  
Help me to offer my best, all that I value, as I focus on  
your purpose and seek the guidance of your Spirit.  
Receive my worship as a gift filled with love.  
Amen.

## Acts 2:38-40

Peter said, "Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites." He went on in this vein for a long time, urging them over and over, "Get out while you can; get out of this sick and stupid culture!"

## Dave Davidson

If you found a cure for cancer, wouldn't it be inconceivable to hide it from the rest of mankind? How much more inconceivable to keep silent the cure from the eternal wages of death

## John 14:5-7

Thomas said, "Master, we have no idea where you're going. How do you expect us to know the road?" Jesus said, "I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him. You've even seen him!"



February 23rd 2020

**Sunday Rousing Worship**  
led by  
**Peter Lay Pastor**

## Evangelism: week 8

How must I change to become an evangelist?

### After-Church Reflections

#### This week's challenge

How do I need to change my public behaviour?

How do I need to change my behaviour at home?

What support can the church offer me?

What support can I offer to other people trying to change?

God who brings good news,  
Whisper your word of life into my heart, that it  
might grow into a song of praise on my lips and a gift  
of love in my hands.

Then help me to share song and gift freely with any  
who would listen and reach out their hands.

Amen

## Genesis 28:16-17

Jacob woke up from his sleep. He said, "God is in this place—truly. And I didn't even know it!" He was terrified. He whispered in awe, "Incredible. Wonderful. Holy. This is God's House. This is the Gate of Heaven."

## David Foster Wallace

Everybody worships. The choice is what to worship...  
pretty much what you worship will eat you alive.  
If you worship money and things, if they are where you  
tap real meaning in life, then you will never have  
enough, never feel you have enough.

Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and  
you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start  
showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally  
grieve you. The whole trick is keeping the truth up  
front in daily consciousness

## Frederick Lewis Donaldson

The Seven Social Sins are:

Wealth without work.

Pleasure without conscience.

Knowledge without character.

Commerce without morality.

Science without humanity.

Worship without sacrifice.

Politics without principle



January 19th 2020

**Sunday Worship  
with Communion led by**

**Rev Nick Blundell**

## Learning and Caring: week 3

How can we best learn about God?

How can we best care for God's creation?

After-Church Reflections

### This week's challenge

How can fellowship contribute to learning and caring?

We are Methodists, how disciplined do we need to be?

Am I the only one who feels ignorant and uncaring?

What has faith to do with learning and caring?

Nurturing God, for the gift of life so full of possibility

I give you my praise.

For your guiding of me thus far, through family and friends,  
teachers and educators, companions and mentors,

I thank you.

As I remember some of those who have shaped me, and  
reflect upon their work and character, I ask the help of your  
Spirit in understanding how I learn and grow. Amen

## Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus... went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the three-fold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

### William Booth

Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face, whose mercy you have professed to obey, and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world."

## Matthew 9:37-38

Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. "What a huge harvest!" he said to his disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!"



February 16th 2020

**Sunday Worship with  
Communion led by  
Rev Nick Blundell**

## Evangelism: week 7

Spreading the Word

After-Church Reflections

### This week's challenge

What do we have that is so good, other people will want it?

How can we show them?

Where can we talk to them?

What can we say or do that will persuade them?

God who honours honesty, as I reflect on barriers to my sharing my faith with those I meet, be at work in me.

Give me ears to hear those who are asking questions, not combative but curious.

Give me sensitivity to answer with integrity, not offering what I think I should say, but speaking my truth.

Release my imagination so I might recognise what is possible, and grant me the gentle courage to walk alongside as one who walks with you. Amen.

## Matthew II:29-30

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly

## Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Nothing that we despise in other men is inherently absent from ourselves. We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or don't do, and more in light of what they suffer

## James I:27-28

Anyone who sets himself up as "religious" by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world



January 26th 2020

Sunday Worship led by  
**Jonathan and Sean Hayes**

## Learning and Caring: week 4

Do our learning and caring shine out as beacons?

### After-Church Reflections

#### This week's challenge

- How do people outside the church see us?
- What do people see when they just use our buildings?
- What do special events, like Easter and the Church Anniversary say to visitors?
- Where can I get help?

Nurturing God, for the gift of life so full of possibility  
I give you my praise.  
For your guiding of me thus far, through family and friends,  
teachers and educators, companions and mentors  
I thank you.  
As I remember some of those who have shaped me, and  
reflect upon their work and character, I ask the help of your  
Spirit in understanding how I learn and grow. Amen

## Lysa TerKeurst

President of Proverbs 31 Ministries in New York

The reality is, my prayers don't change God.  
But, I am convinced prayer changes me.  
Praying boldly boots me out of that stale place of  
religious habit into authentic connection  
with God Himself

## Abraham Lincoln

I have been driven many times upon my knees by the  
overwhelming conviction that I had no where else to  
go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed  
insufficient for that day

## Matthew 6:5-13

And when you come before God, don't turn that into a  
theatrical production either. All these people making a  
regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom!  
Do you think God sits in a box seat?

Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded  
place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God.  
Just be there as simply and honestly as you can man-  
age. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will  
begin to sense his grace.

The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are  
prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs  
and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you  
want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is  
your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better  
than you what you need





February 9th 2020

Sunday All-Age Worship  
led by

**Amanda, Naomi, Nicki and Rachel**

## Service: week 6

What part does prayer play in service?

### After-Church Reflections

#### This week's challenge

How does prayer change our opinions and actions?

How does our prayer change the way people see us?

Can prayer improve the way we serve young, old, isolated people?

Loving God, who notices the one when the ninety-nine are safe, help me to notice the ones you would have me hold in prayer.

Draw my attention to signs of openness and interest.

Give me empathy with any who are hurting.

Don't let me miss, in my busyness, the unspoken request for my interest or help. Amen.

## John 14:26-27

I'm telling you these things while I'm still living with you. The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you.

I'm leaving you well and whole.

That's my parting gift to you - Peace

## Luke 12:12

When they drag you into their meeting places, or into police courts and before judges, don't worry about defending yourselves—what you'll say or how you'll say it. The right words will be there.

The Holy Spirit will give you the right words when the time comes

## Og Mandino

Author of "The Greatest Salesman in the World"

Beginning today, treat everyone you meet as if they were going to be dead by midnight. Extend to them all the care, kindness and understanding you can muster, and do it with no thought of any reward.

Your life will never be the same again



February 2nd 2020

Sunday Worship led by

**Kate Beck**

## Service: week 5

How do we want to change Baildon?

After-Church Reflections

### This week's challenge

Which parts or aspects of Baildon can we change?

Which organisations in Baildon do we want to change?

Who in Baildon do we want to serve?

What are their needs?

God whom I serve in my neighbours,  
Help me to pay attention to those  
amongst whom I move,  
Listening to voices ringing with laughter  
and heavy with sadness,  
And hearing in both the accent of your love.  
Amen.

## John 13:3-7

Jesus ... got up from the supper table, set aside his robe, and put on an apron. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with his apron.

When he got to Simon Peter, Peter said  
"Master, *you wash my feet?*"

## Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"The first service one owes to others in a community involves listening to them. Just as our love for God begins with listening to God's Word, the beginning of love for others is learning to listen to them... We do God's work for our brothers and sisters when we learn to listen to them."

## Mark 10:44-45

Whoever wants to be great must become a servant.  
Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for many who are held hostage