

16 Amen

We reflect on our committed response to the call of God

Singing

Leader Jesus said, 'You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.'
(*John 15:16*)

Keeping Stillness

Let the significance of Jesus' words sink in. It is God's hand on your life which has drawn you here to be spending time in his company. It is his Spirit enabling you to pray. Keep your body still and attentive, giving God the chance to speak into your heart and mind of his love for you and his hopes for you.

Leader Father, let your will be done in us
All for you have the words of eternal life.
Leader Let your love take root in us
All for apart from you we can do nothing.
Leader Let your kingdom grow in us
All for your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.

Leader Hear this account of Isaiah's calling and commissioning, noticing the stages of listening and new insight, repentance, cleansing and self-offering.

Reading Isaiah 6:1-8

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Keeping Stillness

God never sends us anywhere without equipping us for the task. He never asks of us what we cannot do. But it is never us working in our own strength for God; it is always collaborative ministry – working with God in his strength and in step with his timing. In the stillness, ask for God's grace to understand this and act on it.

Leader Hear now the calling and commissioning of Mary.

Reading Luke 1:26-38

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Keeping Stillness

What God needed of Mary was not a total understanding of the task ahead, or of the reasons she had been chosen, but simply the willingness to say 'Yes' and go with God into the altered future, trusting him. Our 'Amen' to the Lord's Prayer is similar. It is our committed 'Yes' to God.

Singing

Leader Let us pray for one another, that we may be firm in purpose,
flexible in God's hands and filled with his love.
Pray with one another in pairs and threes for particular tasks
and God's anointing for them, for areas of difficulty or confusion
about direction, and for God's blessing and guidance in
ongoing work and ministry.

Leader Heavenly Father,
we think of all who pray as Jesus taught us,
and pray for them now.

Men The very young, who have just learnt to speak your name;
Women the very old and frail, their lips barely moving
but their hearts full of a lifetime's trust;

Men the sound of many voices praying as one;
Women the tiny, scattered groups of people
praying in mountain and desert, forest and at sea;

Men the hesitant prayers of those
who are turning back to you at last;

Women the prayers of those imprisoned for their faith;
Men those unaccustomed but desperate,
praying in the turmoil of disaster;

Women those in the freshness of new faith, and full of joy.

Leader As the planet turns, and shadows shrink and stretch
the earth is circled by the voice of prayer:
All God's love and our response.

Leader Like the ice of winter melting into spring,
All let God's kingdom come!

Men Like welcome rain on the parched and thirsty ground,
All let God's kingdom come!

Women Like the strong, hidden growing of roots in the earth,
All let God's kingdom come!

Leader Like the fullgrown wheat for the feeding of many,
All let God's kingdom come!

Men In hearts and households, changes and choices,
All let God's kingdom come!

Women In hurt and hatred, ache and anger,
All let God's kingdom come!

All Our Father, our Parent, our great God of heaven,

let your kingdom come.
Let your will be done in us and in all your people.
Sustain us and provide for us in all our needs.
Free us from our sin through your forgiveness,
as we free others by our forgiveness.
Keep us from falling and save us from evil.
We pray in the sure knowledge
that the power and glory of your reign
lasts for ever and ever. Amen.

Keeping Stillness

In this time give thanks to God in faith for the growth of his kingdom in every act of love and compassion throughout the world, every unselfish thought and honest transaction, every seeking after truth and justice, goodness and humility.

Leader Finally, beloved, whatever is true,
whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

All Amen!
May our lives be transformed by the life of Christ within us.
Amen.