

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL

SUNDAY SERVICE

28 AUGUST 2022

Call to worship

Heavenly Father, how privileged we are to have the book of Acts which not only identifies many good practices to follow but also many pitfalls to avoid. I pray that I may be instant in season and out of season, make time to pray in accordance with Your will, and be careful to study the Word of God, so that I may mature in the faith and grow in the grace which You provide. But I also pray that I would be obedient to Your Word, listen to Your instruction, and obey Your command, so that I may work the works of God and that You may be glorified in my life. This I ask in Jesus' name, AMEN.

“And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:7)

Song: Open our eyes, Lord (Zoom Service)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eerjElgk4Dg>

Open our eyes, Lord (Live/Second Service)

1. Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him
Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus
2. Open our hearts Lord
That we might receive You
Open our spirits
And teach us to worship
Open our lips Lord
And teach us to praise You
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus

Prayer

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our

hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. God of grace: Pour out your Holy Spirit on our today that we may faithfully serve You and those around us. Give us openness to the Holy Spirit's leading that we may see and serve wherever there is need. Train us in prayer that we may express the compassion of Christ for the poor and the friendless, the sick, the grieving, and the troubled.

Equip us with courage to bear the gospel to the powerful, and to communicate your presence and might among those who are powerless. In everything, give us the mind of Christ, who did not grasp at greatness but emptied himself, to become a servant of your reign. Give us joy in our walk of faith and a sure sense of your abiding presence in our life and work. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's prayer

Bible Reading: Acts 6: 1-7 – The Choosing of the Seven

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So, the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word. This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So, the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

REFLECTION: THE CHOOSING OF THE SEVEN

Offering Song (Live/Second service)

Will you come and follow me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o469PRLdbHU>

Prayers for offerings

Bountiful Lord, thank You that You are willing to take all that we offer to You and then multiply it for good. We know that we grow by giving in faith, gratitude, and even in want.

For when we give, we give to You, and You multiply it beyond our wildest imaginations. Take all that we are and all that we have – our time, talents and

The choosing of the seven

**Brothers & sisters, choose seven men
from among you who are known to be
full of the Spirit and wisdom.**

**We will turn this responsibility over
to them daily distribution of food.**

Acts 6:3

money, and bless this community and grow Your church through our giving. Amen!

Prayers for others and ourselves

Generous God, we pray for rich countries with a surplus of wealth and for poor countries in debt to them; we pray for rich countries whose stores are overflowing, and for countries whose harvests have failed; we pray for rich countries flaunting their material success, and for the poor who live there, forgotten or ignored. Generous God, help us not pile up treasures for ourselves While remaining paupers in Your sight.

Generous God, we pray for those whose wealth has given them power, and for those whose poverty has made them powerless; we pray for those whose lives are given to making money, and for those who can barely afford to live; we pray for the successful, the popular, the talented, and for those who are given little respect. Generous God, help us not pile up treasures for ourselves while remaining paupers in Your sight.

Generous God, we pray for Your church with its many possessions, and for Your people who live in poverty; we pray for Your church, entrusted with the gospel, and for those crying out for love and hope; we pray for Your church, filled with Your Holy Spirit, and for those who long for guidance and peace. Generous God, help us not pile up treasures for ourselves while remaining paupers in Your sight.

In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, so that through his poverty we might become rich. Amen

Closing song (Zoom service) I will offer up my life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWP05Fm39sY>

Closing hymn: Will you come and follow me

(Zoom Service)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o469PRLdbHU>

Closing hymn (Second/live service) Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed
3. Through many dangers toils and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home
4. When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun

CCLI Song # 2762836

Final prayer and blessing

May the strength of God sustain us; may the power of God preserve us; may the hands of God protect us; may the way of God direct us; may the love of God go with us this day.

And may the grace....