



Diocese of Canterbury
CHANGED LIVES ⇨ CHANGING LIVES

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

THE GREAT
VOCATIONS
CONVERSATION

VOCATIONS SUNDAY: WHAT COULD YOU DO?

WELCOME

As people arrive for worship, encourage them to start the conversation, asking them to consider with their neighbour or in small groups: "What is vocation?"

You might want to use the images linked at the end of this document to spark conversation and reflection about how we hear God's voice, and to encourage people to share their own experiences – even if they're not sure they ever have heard God's voice (the images are copyright free and can be used without need for a license). You can revisit these questions throughout the service.

SONGS

- The Lord's my Shepherd
- I heard the voice of Jesus say
- Will you come and follow me
- Christ has no body now but yours - a musical version of the prayer of St Theresa of Avila

REFLECTION SUGGESTIONS

Reflecting on John 10: 22-30 and Psalm 23:

- The role of the Shepherd - who leads, refreshes, guides, comforts, anoints.
- The role of the sheep - hearing and responding in trust.

Reflecting on Acts 9:36-43:

- Maybe Dorcas thought she was not significant (as a worker in the secular world) - yet her work had impact (vs 39b) - think about how our work might have more impact than we imagine.
- Maybe Peter thought he was not a healer? But he responded to the request to pray for someone's healing with gentleness - and God worked through him.
- Both show us what it means to be disciples. Both show us something about vocation.
- And the Church grew as a result - it's not just about what happens in the gathered congregation/on a Sunday.
- Is there anything that we think we're not - are we defining ourselves by this, rather than finding our vocation in what and who we already are? 1 Corinthians 1:28 might have something to say to us about this.

PRAYERS

Five-fold ministry prayers:

Lord God and Father of all,

we give thanks that we are called to your service;

may all your people be attentive and obedient to your calling.
Lord, hear your people
and answer our prayers.

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be apostles,
sent out to do your work.
We pray for all who respond to this calling to serve in your name:
for those immersed in the world,
seeking to bear witness to the gospel in word and action,
for those whose service takes them to places where they face
opposition and difficulty,
may they be continually filled with your Spirit,
and empowered to follow your calling.
Lord, hear your people
and answer our prayers.

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be prophets.
We pray for all whom you have called to speak out
and proclaim the values of your kingdom:
for those who challenge injustice and apathy and untruth,
for those who campaign for the well-being of your people and your world
may they be continually filled with your vision,
and have courage in their prophetic calling.
Lord, hear your people
and answer our prayers.

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be evangelists.
We pray for all whom you have called to share the message of your love:
for those who communicate the good news of Christ to others,
for those whose enthusiasm and love conveys your truth,
may they be filled with your love as they share the good news with others.
Lord, hear your people
and answer our prayers.

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be pastors.
We pray for all whom you have called to care
through prayer and through service:
for those who take care of any who are young or old,
who are sick or struggling,
for those whose work supports medical, social and community services,
may their lives be channels of your love and grace.
Lord, hear your people
and answer our prayers.

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be teachers.
We pray for all whom you have called to encourage adults and children
to learn and grow:
for those who teach informally as parents, mentors and facilitators,
for workers in schools, colleges and universities,

and for those who teach in our churches;
may they speak your truth, and help others to grow in wisdom.
Lord, hear your people
and answer our prayers.

Lord of all,
you have called each of us to serve you
in your world and in your Church;
strengthen and equip us by your Spirit
to recognise your call to us,
and give us grace and courage to fulfil that calling,
in and for the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Amen.

GENERAL PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN SEEN AND UNSEEN MINISTRY ROLES

FOR PCC MEMBERS

God, thank you for all those who have been willing to stand as PCC members. Give to each one a thoughtful heart and good understanding of all that is required of them as they make decisions together in the year to come.

FOR THE MLT, ALMS, OUR READERS, AND OTHERS EXPLORING VOCATIONS

We give thanks for the gifts which have been developed through training and experience and pray that these would continue to be discovered, for the blessing of this congregation and the growth of God's kingdom.

FOR THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM

We pray for those who visit the sick and lonely and bereaved, who offer a listening ear, who bring communion to those who cannot get to church, and we give thanks for this invaluable work and all who are involved in being your hands and feet as part of the pastoral care team.

FOR THOSE WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN

(and especially this morning for those helping our children and young people engage with their own faith journey):

We are thankful for their time and patience and their desire to share the good news of your love with those who are still young. May this work continue to grow and develop among us.

FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THE CHURCH

As we give thanks for this building and it's x amount of years of witness in this community, we remember the many skills which make it so beautiful and appreciated – so for those who are part of the fabric committee, who arrange flowers, who clean and polish and do so many other quiet and unseen things, we give you thanks today.

FOR THOSE WHO HELP WITH OUR WORSHIP

We give thanks for the gifts of welcome, of prayer, of communication, of technology and of order which enable us to meet together and invite you to be present too. Bless all who play a part in this ministry.

CLOSING BIDDING PRAYERS

And now we are all invited
to offer our service to God in the year to come:

We remember that all who are baptized
are called to worship and serve God.

Wherever you call us, Lord, our God,
we want to be ready and willing to go.

Whenever you need us, Lord, our God
we want to be available and attentive.

Whoever turns out to be our neighbour in need,
we want to be happy to serve, without exceptions.

Live within us, Lord our God
**So that we notice, with your discernment,
respond with your compassion,
and speak with your integrity.
In our lives and in our world,
let your kingdom come.
Amen**

However you call us Lord
**enable us to respond to that call
with love for you and each other
Amen**

IMAGES TO SPARK CONVERSATION

- Lightning strike
- Conversation
- Dream
- Bible
- Looking up
- Question
- Signs