

Ordinary Time Year C 2025

Intergenerational Worship Ideas

14th Sunday - 22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time Ordinary People Extraordinary God

ordinary - adjective
or·di·nary'ôr-də-,ner-ē

1
: of a kind to be expected in the normal order
of events : routine, usual, an ordinary day



The actual term for ordinary time comes from the word “ordinal” and was simply a easier way of counting the Sundays through to Advent that were not significant feast days in the calendar

The goal of this series is to help build strong connections within your community and consider what every day faith looks like outside of Sunday morning.

This series encourages people to acknowledge that the ordinary parts of life as just as valuable as the ‘highs’ and that God is present in our ordinary lives.

Sharing Stories

By inviting different people to share stories that relate to the different themes, we help build a culture of listening and learning from others

Creating Together

A collaborative creation that is added to every week helps show the progression and growth that happens over a period of time

Building Community

Discussion and reflection questions and holding events outside of Sunday will help build relationship with one another

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Introduction

This resource has been developed from a series I did with my own worshipping community in 2022. Inspired by the idea of embracing the ordinary, I explored the lectionary readings for the season and what it might mean to visibly chart our journey.

We often put a lot of effort into our special events, Lent, Easter, Advent Christmas but in reality we often see the growth in the boring every day, where we are continually challenged in our faith by life as it unfolds.

The inspiration of those special times can stay with us, but the reality of life challenges us to really consider our faith and what it might mean to live as people God.

This series includes finding one person from each week to share a small moment of faith related to the theme as well as a collaborative creative project that helped link each week and showed our growth throughout the season.

To help build relationship, within each service there are opportunities for people to discuss and reflect together as well as some suggestions for intentional community building outside of Sundays.

For each week I offer some ideas for questions, activities and reflections that you can use as part of your worship. Feel free to adapt and adjust to your needs. You may not have the space for people to move around or be in small groups, so consider how you can insert different activities into your usual service outline.



This resource is designed to be a jumping off point to curate worship for your context by providing some consistent prompts for sharing, discussion and reflection as well as different ideas that you may want to incorporate.

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Sharing Faith Stories Building Relationships

Sharing Faith Stories

It is well established in Intergenerational Ministry that a vital part of building community is in the sharing of faith stories. We can call this a **Faith Moment**.

Invite one person every week to share for not more than 3 minutes. Give them the theme and invite them to think of three answers:

- What is significant about this moment?
- Where was God in this moment?
- What changed?

Ask people to prepare their words by writing them down and make sure they are using a microphone so they can be heard.

Invite people of different ages to share

If you have artists in your midst you could invite them to create something in response to the theme and share that with your congregation.

As with all these things, intentionality is key. It is worth putting out a general invitation to see how people respond but you might well have to shoulder tap.

Worship Planning & Leading

Intergenerational services lend themselves to the opportunity for people of different ages to create or lead different parts of the service. You may want to create a couple of small groups of differently-aged people or invite family/household groups to lead together, or you might want to shoulder tap people to do a small part of the service. We find that enabling people to lead from their seats/tables decreases some of the anxiety people can experience about speaking in front of others.

Not all of the ideas or suggestions will be suitable for your context. Feel free to use it curate worship for your church in the format that suits your community.

Building Relationships



As well as your Sunday worship, use this ordinary time to plan additional gatherings to help foster these relationships.

Choose times that would work best for children and families and older people who may not like to be out when it's too dark, late afternoon works best especially if you are going to include a meal.

Ideas include:

- Shared meals
- Movie Nights
- Games Nights
- Prayer/Contemplation in small groups
- A study group to go deeper in the gospel readings.
- A creative group to paint panels or boards to go outside your church. You could add bible readings or reflections for people in the wider community to experience.
- As you gather, use conversation prompts to help people connect with one another.
- You may want to curate groups so people of different ages intentionally connect

Collaborative Creation

Inspiration



From Inspiration to Reality

For the creative activity I wanted something that was easily achievable for all ages and that depicted growth.

A tree was an obvious choice and while I loved the idea of painting panels or the variety of different shapes, I felt that these wouldn't quite work in my context.

I also wanted something colourful and handprints seemed to fit the bill. I selected an assortment of different coloured paper and provided both a handprint template (my own) and blank coloured paper. Every week was assigned a different colour.

The handprints became peoples response to what we were doing each week. I made a trunk using brown wrapping paper on a blank wall with branches to provide a framework for the handprints.

You can use these ideas to design a response to depict your journey.

Scripture Worship Stations Preaching

Scripture

Presenting Scripture in different ways is an important part of an intergenerational service. Sometimes it works best if a bible passage is simply read as is.

Other times because of length, subject matter or for variation using different ways of presenting Scripture is useful.

Other ideas can include:

- Using different voices to read different parts of the passage (invite different ages to read)
- Find scripts for dramas, puppets and other all age activities here www.allageworshipresources.org
- Use lostsheep.org.au for theologically sound renditions of scripture in cartoon format that is accessible for any age
- Lumo bible for gospel readings - there are videos in multiple languages of all the gospels in several different translations
- Bible Explore at bibleexplore.nz often has different videos available
- Engage Worship at engageworship.org has a variety of different skits and worship ideas
- Use Lectio Divina or dwelling in the word, inviting people to share in small groups about what jumps out at them.
- Visio Divina - offering the contemplation of art as part of Scripture presentation works well.
 - Sarah Lee West visiolectio.com
 - A Sanctified Art sanctifiedart.org
 - Art and Theology blog artandtheology.org
 - Artway - artway.eu

Worship Stations

Worship stations are a useful way of giving people an opportunity to explore scripture or themes in a different way.

If you do not have the space to do stations, then you could consider including the different activities as a full group activity.

You may need to adapt what else you are doing to provide sufficient time.

Preaching

Within all these services is the space to include some form of talk, homily or short sermon if you wish. You may want to tweak the reflections or questions depending on what jumps out for the preacher or something that is particularly meaningful to your context.

Being aware of your audience, consider what you want people to hear from your words. If there is a fascinating Hebrew or Greek word that has caught your attention, use that as a basis for wonder and reflection but be aware of time if you are doing more interactive components as they take longer.

The purpose of preaching is essentially to share the good news. It does not mean that it has to be from a pulpit or just words, we can share the good news in many different ways. For more ideas about intergenerational preaching, see Dave Csinos' book "A Gospel for All Ages".

Prayers for the series

Coming from an Anglican tradition, written prayers or liturgy are central to our worship and guide us through our service. Other denominations vary in their use of such prayers. Your faith tradition will guide you on whether you choose to use the different prayers here or throughout the material. If you use traditional liturgy, consider incorporating the creative ideas through the series into your worship and then completing them using your preferred prayers. This provides both a different way of praying and connecting with God as well as sharing the traditions and liturgy of your faith community.

Call to Worship

We come today
In our ordinary lives
With routines and disasters
Surprises and no surprise at all
Lives with happiness and sadness
And all of the rest in between
wrapped up together as
ordinary time

In this time we invite God in,
into the boring, unremarkable places of our lives
into the dusty corners of our everyday
For it is these places where we are,
where we find ourselves,
the running late, forgot-where-I-put-it selves,
as well as the organised, have-got-on-top-of -it
selves.

We trust that God cares for us in our ordinary
lives,
we trust that in this ordinary time we will hear
God's voice

Creator, Redeemer, Giver of Life
We welcome you into our lives today
Fill our hearts with hope
Remind us that our ordinary lives are
beloved by you.
Help us to hear your voice
Help us to follow your call on our lives.
Be with us in our worship
Amen

Blessing

May God lead you to places of rest and
comfort
May Jesus be with you in the valley
May the Holy Spirit fill you to
overflowing.
And may you share this with all
you meet

And as you go today may the blessing
of the Creator, Redeemer and Giver of
Life be with you all
Amen.



The Unexpected Work of God

14th Sunday Ordinary Time

Scripture and Themes

God works in unexpected ways

2 Kings 5:1-14

Luke 10:1-20

Namaan was offered healing - by doing something that seemed quite odd and followed the advice of his servant. The 72 were sent out with some specific instructions and with amazing results

God doesn't need superstars or experts, but uses different people and will speak truth into our lives in unexpected ways.

Group questions

How do you react to a new idea? Are you the type of person who will just get on board and do it? Or do you need a bit of time to get used to something?



Heal the World

Inspired by the healing story in Kings, set out a map or globe of the world, a clear basin to hold water and another container of water and something to dip in the water and pour (a shell or similar would be ideal)

Select 7 (or which ever number makes sense to your context) different places or situations in the world that are in need of prayer.

Write a short prayer for each place and either select people prior or if you have groups, ask each group to select one person to come up, read the prayer and pour some water into the clear basin.

Have the prayers written on powerpoint and invite people to respond in a way that is familiar to your congregation. Finish with the Lord's Prayer

Faith Moment

Share a time when you had help from someone unexpected.



Discuss/Reflect

Part One - Think of someone who has been really important in your life but who might be seen as insignificant in the world. Discuss in your groups and write their name down on a hand.

Allow time

Part Two - is there something that you are being challenged or called to do but you feel ill-equipped or not confident doing? Spend some time with God now and write that down on your hand as well. We will do this while listening to this music.

Invite people come up to attach their hands to the wall, inviting them to invite God into their lives to speak to them this week.

You may want to play some music in the background to create an atmosphere of reflection after people have discussed the first question. Once everyone has finished this could lead into a time of contemplative singing or you could move into prayer.

Other ideas:

Scripture Presentation from Engage Worship:

<https://engageworship.org/ideas/luke-10-visual-reflection>

Lumos Bible Reading for the gospel

Visio Divina by Rev'd Sarah Lee West
<https://visiolectio.com/year-c>

Good Samaritan

15th Sunday Ordinary Time

Scripture and Themes

Luke 10:25-37

Colossians 1:1-14

We will be exploring what parts we might play in the story of the Good Samaritan.

Prayers

You may wish to do this in small groups, if so have prayer prompts available, or you could lead everyone in the prayers

We are going to pray together in our groups using prompts from Colossians 1:9-12

So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you.

Is there someone who you would like to keep praying for? Share in your groups and pray for them.

Allow time for talk and prayer

We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

Is there something that you are not sure about? A decision you have to make or a difficult decision you are facing? Think about that situation and then have someone in your group read through the sentences again as you hold it in your mind.

Allow time

We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

Share in your group something that you are thankful for and then as a group, pray for joy and strength. Pray for other situations that come to mind.

*Allow time for sharing and prayer
Finish with the Lords Prayer*



Faith Moment

Share a time when someone did something that really helped you out.



Group questions

Invite people to discuss what an oxymoron, when they have finished, highlight how our association of being a Samaritan or a Good Samaritan is different to the situation in the gospel story.

Confession

When we do not see the need in front of us

Forgive us

When we rush by, too busy to help

Forgive us

When we make judgement about someones worth because of where they came from and what they do

Forgive us

Priest - God forgives you, forgive others, forgive yourself

Amen, we go in forgiveness to love one another.

Discuss/Reflect

Trace your hand or cut out a template. Which character do you relate to in the story. On your hand, write down who you think you relate to and ask God give you what you need.

When you are done, go and stick your hand on the wall, just above the ones already there.

Other ideas:

Lost Sheep version of Good Samaritan story from www.lostsheep.com.au

Colossians 1 prayer scribble sheet from www.engageworship.org.

Mary and Martha

16th Sunday Ordinary Time



Scripture and Themes

Luke 10:38-45

Colossians 1:1-14

We will be exploring the story of Mary and Martha

Confession

You will need enough river stones for everyone
I invite you to hold a stone in your hand, feel the weight of it. How does it feel?

Now try and hold it really tight, as tight as you can. How does it feel now? Imagine having to carry this all day. How do you think it would feel if you held it all day.

Swap it to the other hand and try holding it tightly in that hand. Does it feel any different? How about holding it in two hands? Is it any easier?

We can't carry other things when we have something in our hands. We can't even reach out, this stone is now a burden that stops us from doing what we want and need to do.

Let this stone represent all the things that you are carrying today. Whether it's things you've done wrong, the things that you did or said that hurt others, the times when you have judged or criticised, the times when words came out of your mouth that you immediately regretted. Maybe you are carrying fear or worry that you are afraid to let go of. Maybe you are angry and resentful about a person or situation. Let this stone be that today.

When you are ready, come up and place your stone at the altar as a symbol of giving your burden to God.

Once people have done this.

Priest: Jesus said Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Come and rest with God.

You are forgiven

Forgive others

Forgive yourself



Faith Moment

Share about a time you sat at God's feet and a time you served someone else.

Group questions

What your to-do list looks like?

Do you have one? Do you keep it in your head or do you make an actual list?

Do you use a computer app or a manual list?

How do you remember all you need to remember? Share in your group.

Reflect

Trace your hand or cut out a template.

In this moment of quiet, ask God "what do you have to say to me today. Write down what comes to mind.

You may want to play some quiet music

When you are done, go and stick your hand on the wall, just above the ones already there.

Prayers

God of to do lists and work,
Remind us to stop and think of you

God who invites us to sit at your feet,
Speak to us so we can hear

God who walks alongside us
Be with those who are sick, hurting and in pain

God who works through the hands of others
Be with those who are bringing peace and healing to the world

God who guides and leads
Be with those who are making decisions that impact on others lives

God who loves us
Help us to love one another

Prayer

17th Sunday Ordinary Time

Scripture and Themes

Luke 11:1-13

Exploring Prayer using Lord's Prayer

Prayer Stations



Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

We will need: pictures of images of God and words such as Mother, King, Wisdom, Shekinah, Lord, Nurturer, Alpha & Omega, Eloah, YHWH, Abba, Creator, on the wall; Phrase of the Lord's Prayer, instructions: What name or image of God are you most comfortable with? Reflect on these images and names and choose one that sits 'right' with you. Pray to God using the name or focusing on your image.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

We will need: Globe, names of places to pray for, instructions

Write a place in the world that is in need of God's Kingdom to come on the light blue hand and place it on the white space above the blue hands.

Give us today our daily bread.

We will need: instructions, assorted crackers on a couple of plates.

Give thanks for what God provides for us every day. Help yourself to some crackers.

Faith Moment



Share a time where you had a prayer answered.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

We will need: Basket, paper, pens
Write down something that you need to confess or someone you need to forgive and place it in the basket (fold it up).

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

We will need: Cross on a table, fabric draped around, next to candle tray, candles, instructions

Is there something that you are struggling with? Look at the cross and ask Jesus to be with you in your situation, when you have finished, light a candle as a symbol of your prayer today.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.

We will need: Large Lord's Prayer colouring (Illustrated Ministry), pencils, instructions.

Spend some time colouring part of this large picture. With others at the table, talk about something that God has done that you'd like to praise/thank God for.

To complete the stations:



Invite someone to bring up the confession/forgiveness prayers.

Priest - God forgives you, forgive others, forgive yourself. Through Christ God has put away your sin, approach your God in peace.

You may want to consider drawing together the whole session by playing another version of the Lord's prayer - consider a version in te reo, another language or find a version on Spotify or YouTube that resonates.

Barriers to our faith

18th Sunday Ordinary Time



Scripture and Themes

Luke 12:13-21

Psalm 127

Exploring barriers to our faith through the story of a rich man and a reminder that God is with us

Faith Moment

Share about a time something stopped you from getting close to God.

M&M Sharing Time

You will need: M&Ms in a small bowl, teaspoons for people to get the lollies out of the bowl (not to put in their mouths and you'll have to tell people this!), instructions for the different colours and the sharing topic.



M&M sharing time is a fun way of encouraging people to share about what has happened in their lives. You could use Skittles for a dairy free option or you could use Duplo or Lego blocks, ensuring there is a good assortment of colours on the table to allow people to choose what they feel comfortable sharing.

Red - Something difficult that happened this week

Yellow - Something great that happened this week

Blue - Something you learned this week

Brown - Food you enjoyed this week

Green - Something that you are looking forward to

Orange - Something you read or listened to this week

Other ideas:

www.engageworship.org has a prayer by Dave Hopwood that would fit nicely as a call to worship

Reflect

You will need: recording or music video of U2's All That We Leave Behind, preferable the live version from the Elevation Tour

Our gospel today reminds us that our worth is not just in what we have. We are reminded that being single-minded in our pursuit of things can get in the way of our relationships, and with our relationship with God. The gospel is not saying don't work hard, or even don't save for later but it is saying that once what we have becomes more important than other things, then we need to change.

What will we leave behind? What legacy do we hope to leave? Do we plan to leave 'stuff' or do we plan to leave something else? What do we do today to make sure we are leaving the right thing?

I invite you to listen to this song. It is a good reminder of what we have to leave behind. As we do this I invite you to write something that might be holding you back in your faith on the purple hand and stick it on the wall in the topmost part of the tree.

Play "Walk On" by U2, using a music video from the Elevation Tour. Follow with confession

Confession

Together we confess:

Lord,

Forgive us when we value things more than we value you

Forgive us when we judge based on wealth and ability

Forgive us when we ignore the needs of those around us because we are too busy focusing on ourselves

Help us to do better.

Priest: The God who loves us offers us forgiveness and welcomes us home.

You are forgiven

Be at peace.

Treasures in Heaven

19th Sunday Ordinary Time

Scripture and Themes

Luke 12:32-40
Isaiah 1:10-20



Our outward expressions of worship need to match our values and our heart.

Group Question

If you were going to be dumped on a desert island, assuming you would have sufficient food and drink provided already, what important things would you grab?

Prayers

If not already, invite people to create small groups for prayer. Create different collages of pictures in the following themes (or others relevant to your context) so each group is praying for a different issue.

- Climate Change
- War
- Government
- Those who are sick
- The church
- Those experiencing poverty and housing insecurity

Please reflect and talk about these for a few minutes and then spend some time praying together. If you have anything you would like pray for then you may want to share with your group and pray for that as well.

Once people have had enough time to pray together, call everyone together and pray the Lord's Prayer.

If small groups are not possible, create slides with pictures and invite different aged people to prepare prayers for the different topics in advance so there are different voices praying. Offer to help those who might need it to prepare a short prayer.

Faith Moment

Share a time where you realised how important something was, what did you do after that?

Reflect

This could be done as a group or create a space for personal reflection by giving everyone a small document with the prompt questions on it and provide one for each person, with pens/pencils.

As you think of the words in scripture and sermon today, reflect on these questions.

1. What is your greatest treasure?
2. What have you invested your life in so far?
3. Will these things matter in the context of eternity?
4. What is God calling you to be passionate about?

On your hand, write down what God is prompting you to do today and place it on the wall.

You may wish to play some quiet music. If you wish this to be a contemplative time, ask people to do this quietly by themselves.

Confession

In Isaiah 10 God says "I, the Lord, invite you to come and talk it over"

So we will come to God and talk:

Let us pray together:

We confess that we hold onto things tightly

We confess that we do not always see the needs of others

We confess that we want things our way

We confess that often the first person we think of is ourselves.

Forgive us

Help us to let go

Help us to truly see the other

Help us see into your heart

Priest - God forgives you, forgive others, forgive yourself. Through Christ God has put away your sin, approach your God in peace.



Heroes of our Faith

20th Sunday Ordinary Time

Scripture and Themes

Luke 12:49-56

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

We are surrounded by saints and inspiring people of faith.

Stations



Confession - At the Christ Candle

You will need a sandtray and candles, instructions.

Hebrews 12: 1-2 "Such a large crowd of witnesses is all around us! So we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us. We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete."

Every week have the Christ Candle lit to remind us that Jesus is always with us and is our light, who encourages and guides us.

Is there anything that is slowing you down in your faith? Anything you are struggling to let go of? Tell this to God and light a candle as a symbol of your prayer.

Reflection time #1 People from the Bible

Have a list of bible characters as a prompt, post it notes, felt tip pens.

Abel, Enoch, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Queen Vashti, Esther, Mary (mother of Jesus), Jesus, Mary, Martha, Mary of Magdalene, Simon Peter, Stephen, Paul, Timothy, Lydia, Priscilla...

Here are a few people who are known to us as people of faith in the bible. Is one of them particularly inspiring to you? Stick a post it note with the name of someone from the bible who inspires you. If there is someone missing, write it on the empty spaces at the bottom of the page.

Faith Moment

Share someone who has been a 'Faith hero' to you (*you may wish to skip this as the activities invite everyone to share*)

Group Question

Who is your favourite super hero or what super power would you like to have?

Reflection time #2 People who have inspired you in your faith

You will need - A4 paper and pens.

Is there someone who has inspired you in your faith? It can be someone from long ago or recent. It can be a someone well known to many or someone to known only to you. Write down their name on a A4 piece of paper in big letters and in smaller writing explain what they did for you. Keep this paper with you, you will need it later

Thanksgiving

You will need: hand prints of the appropriate colour, pens. Even if you are not doing the collage, this can still be a nice intentional prayer.

Has there been something happen recently that has really helped you or encouraged you? Write it down on a hand and stick it to the wall in thanksgiving for what God has done for you this week.

Intercessory Prayer - Pictures from last week

You will need: whiteboard, pictures from last week along the top. Invite people to contemplate each picture and write or draw a prayer in response using a whiteboard marker



Church Regathering



You will need: the post it notes people have written on from the people in the bible who have inspired faith, a microphone to pass around, the Christ candle or another candle in the middle of the space.

Invite people to create a circle around the church, holding the piece of paper with the name of the person who has inspired their faith. If you have people who are physically more tired, ensure they are comfortably seated. You may have to be creative with your circle depending on your sanctuary arrangement. It can help to start the sharing with people who are more comfortable speaking out loud at first, so choose your starting place wisely.

I am going to read the names of the people in the bible who have encouraged and inspired us. When I have finished reading all these names we will respond:

For all these witnesses we give thanks

Read the names.

Now we take turns to read the name of the person from our own lives who have inspired us in our faith.. You are welcome to just say their name or you can also explain what they did for you. When you have finished bring your piece of paper up and lay it at the feet of the Christ Candle and we will respond.

For this witness we give thanks.

If you don't want to read your name out loud, that is fine, you are welcome just to pass the microphone to the next person or you could ask someone else to read it on your behalf. If you need someone to help you take your name to the candle, ask the person next to you to do that for you.

Allow time for microphone to be passed from person to person and the name of people shared.

There are so many people who are heroes. Not because they have superpowers or have necessarily done anything particularly amazing, but because they were there. Some were there when God needed them, some of them have been there when we've needed them. Let's say together the following short prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer:

Lord for these witnesses, countless as heavens stars, we give thanks with loving and joyful hearts.

Follow with the Lord's Prayer.

A note about worship stations

You will need to consider how to support younger and older people when doing stations. Some people might need some help and prompts. You may want to shoulder tap a few people who can be available to help people if needed. And while parents will often help their own children, it can be nice for another adult or young person to go alongside a child and assist. The same can go for people who might have mobility issues or cognitive issues, having others who are happy to explain, help and assist

If moving around the church isn't an option then you can adapt this to corporate worship by giving people a small pack with post it notes, paper, a pen, a handprint and then guide people through together. You can still pass the microphone around for the end. If you are doing the wall of handprints you may wish to have people taking the handprints and placing them on a visible wall so everyone can see them

Each station needs to have written instructions of what to do. I find menu holders useful or you could use blu-tac or similar to attach them to a wall.



Sabbath /Justice

21st Sunday Ordinary Time

Scripture and Themes

Luke 13:10-17
Isaiah 58:9-14

What we do for worship needs to be connected with justice



Confession

You may wish to incorporate the Isaiah reading as a confession. A version of Isaiah 58 with a song by Urban Doxology is very powerful and available on YouTube (search Isaiah 58 Urban Doxology).

Reflection: I wonder

Wondering encourages people to ask questions without necessarily answering the questions. It is accessible for all ages. Encourage people to foster holy curiosity about the story

I wonder how many times that woman had come to temple and been turned away before Jesus saw and healed her?

I wonder what the family of the woman would have said when she came home

I invite you to wonder with these questions this morning and in your groups discuss these questions or maybe you have a wondering question of your own?
Allow time for people to talk

What is God inviting you to consider today?

Blessing

May the God of rest speak to us in the quiet
May the God of justice challenge us in our busyness
May the God of love remind us of our worth
May the God of peace be with us

And the blessing of God the Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be with us all this week. Amen

Faith Moment

Share your Sabbath/rest practices



Group Question

Imagine that you have a whole day to do whatever you like - there are no chores, work, school or appointments, just a day. What would you do? Share in your group.

Intro to reading

Who remembers a time when Sunday might have looked different? When shops or malls weren't open? What did you do instead?

Has anyone ever lived in a place that has followed a Sabbath - such as in a predominantly Islamic or Jewish country?
If no offering, share below:

In her book Sabbath keeping Lynne Baab shares her experience of Sabbath in both Iran and Israel. For both times, Friday and Saturday were quiet, there was no traffic noise, no buses, cars, or shops open. People would gather socially and obviously gather in worship (although their Christian service was on a Saturday evening) but the rest of the world seemed to stop.

Many of the commands of God in the Old Testament regarding worship, ritual, Sabbath keeping, harvesting, hospitality and finance often had deep justice implications as well, such as the year of Jubilee or allowing the poor to glean wheat from the fields. Keep this in mind as we hear the story this morning.

Options for focus:

There is the opportunity to focus on both Sabbath or Justice, or both. You may wish to focus on Sabbath keeping and rest or you may prefer to focus on issues of justice and it's connection with worship, considering what it looks like to be restored to community.

Being a Guest

22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

Scripture and Themes

Luke 14:7-14

1 Chronicles 29: 10-15

Being a guest on our earth (useful as a lead up to season of creation). It is also the last service in this resource.

Creation



If you have people in small groups have a plate of sand at each table and an assortment of flowers/leaves/stones, and invite people to create small gardens together. Otherwise you could set up a table and as part of a prayer time or reflection, invite people to take a flower and create a garden together.

Group Question

What is one thing you do to live more lightly on the earth

Options:

You could use this time to do a focus on Zero Waste and what your church can do decrease waste.

You can use this time to reflect on your ordinary time season. Using the handprint co-creation as a focal point, invite people to consider where they have seen growth or newness in their journey over the last 8 weeks. You could provide some prompts to remind people of the different themes.

Reflective question

Depending on your focus you may wish to adapt this to be more specific

What is God saying to you today?
What is something that you will do intentionally in the coming weeks?

Faith Moment

Share your journey of living lighter in the world



Confession

You can use these photo ideas for intercessions as well

(Picture of people fighting at a supermarket and empty shelves) For those times when we have taken more than our share.

Lord have mercy

(Deforestation) For those times when our relationship with creation becomes broken.

Christ have mercy

(Rubbish tip) For those times when we have throw away what we have

Lord have mercy

Priest - through Christ, God has put away your sin, approach your God in peace.

Intercessions

(Empty shelves) - Lord, help us to consider carefully what we need and what we buy so that everyone can have enough.

Lord hear our prayer

(Deforestation) - Lord help us to make wise decisions about who we buy from and where it comes from to lighten our footprint on the earth.

Lord hear our prayer

(Rubbish tip) - Lord, help us to be mindful of what waste we produce and where it goes. Help us to use this information we have been given today to change.

Lord hear our prayer

You may wish to add more prayers relevant to your community and finish with the Lord's Prayer