

# Worship at Home – Vocations

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021

*Prepared by Rev Adam Pawley, Rector*



### **Prayers to start**

*Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: Hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.***

### **Bible Reading – Romans 1:1-7**

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, **called** to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—<sup>2</sup> the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures<sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David,<sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.<sup>5</sup> Through him we received grace and apostleship to **call** all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.<sup>6</sup> And you also are among those Gentiles who are **called** to belong to Jesus Christ.<sup>7</sup> To all in Rome who are loved by God and **called** to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Thought**

This Sunday in Hope and Emmanuel churches we will be thinking about vocations. We will be reflecting on our calling as a Christian. I wonder what is your vocation? What has God called you to in the past? What might he be calling you to today and or in the future? How can you love and serve God best?

When I was 16, I remember when choosing my A-levels (eventually Maths, Physics and French), thinking about what I might study at university. For a short time I fancied myself as a doctor... "Hello, I'm Dr Pawley but don't worry I'm quite well!" When I started A-level Chemistry however I soon got very confused with it all and gave it up and thus any chance of a medical career. I would have made an awful doctor. Not just because I couldn't understand Chemistry but also because I am very queezy! When I had my Covid vaccine last month could I look at what the nurse was doing? No I could not!! Not all of us have a vocation to be a nurse or doctor but in light of the last 16 months (and longer) we are very pleased that many are!!

As Christians we believe in God's calling on our lives. The retired bishop of Oxford, John Pritchard, suggests four types of vocation. The obvious one that comes to mind (at least for me) is the call to an authorized ministry in the church, but there are others that are worth us all thinking about too –

1. The call to be fully ourselves
2. The call to be a disciple of Jesus
3. The call to serve

Firstly, as Christians, it's not society or the media, not even family or friends who help us to understand who primarily we are, but God. We are made in the image of God. We are called to be the unique person God has made us to be – complete with quirks and queezes (including for some, queezes of needles!) What that is good, do you enjoy most? What makes you tick? Helps you to relax? Motivates you into action? Is easy to love? What sets you free to be your own unique self?

Secondly, as Christians we are all called to follow Jesus. On this calling, Bishop John Pritchard writes, "There is no higher calling". All of us have the wonderful calling to 'obey God through faith' (Romans 1:5), 'be his holy people' (Romans 1:7) and 'belong to Jesus Christ' (Romans 1:6). Or as Paul put it to the Galatian Christians, "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. This life that I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me" (Galatians 2:20). All of us as Christians are called to pray, read Scripture, join in the sacraments, support one another in love and surrender our lives back to God.

Thirdly, as we follow Jesus, we discover that we are called to serve too. Serve in the church. Serve in the home. Serve in the workplace. Serve in the community. Serve wherever we are. Not serve only ourselves, but serve God and others. I wonder what particular acts of service to God and others energizes you most? What needs in our community do you see that when you fulfil them brings joy to your soul? Now there's your vocation!

### ***Closing Prayers***

Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the Church with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love. Make us ready to live his gospel and eager to do his will that we may share with all your Church in the joys of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*We hope you are safe and well. Please get in touch if we can help (Adam 01978 760439, Gareth 07731 827988). This Sunday (13 June) we have Morning Worship services at 9:30am in Penyffordd and 11am in Hope and Holy Communion at 11am in Penymynydd. You are very welcome to join us.*