

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord ...

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord ...

A Prayer

Almighty God,
hear our prayer which we offer for ourselves,
and for all your faithful people,
that each one of us in our calling and ministry
may serve you in faith and love
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.
Amen.

Next week

4. Martha and Mary: One thing is needed

Luke 10. 38-42

The Brickhills and Stoke Hammond

Lent Course 2017

Pilgrims: Meeting God on the journey

God of our pilgrimage,
you have willed that the gate of mercy
should stand open for those who trust in you:
look upon us with your favour
that we who follow the path of your will
may never wander from the way of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

3. Isaiah: Who will go for us?

Isaiah 6. 1-8

These were the Bible readings for Holy Communion on Sunday:

Isaiah 6. 1-8

The prophet Isaiah receives a vision of God, and responds to God's call.

Romans 12. 1-6a

Paul writes of the call to offer ourselves—bodies, minds and gifts—to the service of God.

Luke 5. 1-11

Jesus calls his first disciples away from their home and work to follow him.

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.'

We can't be certain, but it seems likely that the prophet Isaiah was in the Temple in Jerusalem, and, as he saw and heard and felt the ritual and worship of the Temple, it was suddenly overlaid with something else. He saw at the same time a vision of the glory and majesty of the presence of God, he heard and felt the power of the worship of heaven. And felt that he was not worthy to be there.

We get a clue to the setting for this encounter with God in those first few words of our reading:

In the year that King Uzziah died ... (Isaiah 6. 1)

Uzziah, who had been king of Judah, died in about 740BC, right in the middle of a two hundred year period in which the smaller kingdoms of that region were constantly overshadowed by the 'superpower' that was Assyria. King Uzziah, whose name means 'God is my help (or strength)', had reigned over a period of relative peace and stability, and some prosperity, which was now coming to an end. Was Isaiah grieving for the king who had died? Was he seeking the assurance of God's presence in a time of growing uncertainty? As he marks the passing of a human king, Isaiah is blessed with a new and deeper vision of the majesty of God.

Some questions for reflection

How do you feel as you hear the description of Isaiah's vision?

Does it remind you about any experiences that you have had?

What is the significance of Isaiah's lips being touched by the hot coal from the altar?

Does the historical background, as set out on the previous page, affect how you understand Isaiah's vision?

What do you think about Isaiah's calling as a prophet, as it is set out in the rest of the chapter (Isaiah 6. 9 - 13)?

The prayer on the next page suggests that every follower of Jesus has a 'calling' and 'ministry'

Do you agree?

What is your understanding of your own 'calling'?

You may like to reflect on the words of the other Bible readings for Sunday, and also the words of the song on the next page.