

# Dalby Church at Home

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

## Belonging.....



## Introduction :

*Welcome to our church at Home, a time where,  
though individually, we can meet together  
before God.*

*This week the focus of our worship is on God's calling.  
We start just by being in a quiet space,  
you may like to light a candle to focus your attention.*

*Just take a moment of silence to still yourself  
to let the busyness of the day subside as you read the following reflection on God  
with us :*

### **Reflection :**

*You are beautiful beyond description  
Too marvelous for words  
Too wonderful for comprehension  
Like nothing ever seen or heard  
Who can grasp Your infinite wisdom  
Who can fathom the depths of Your love  
You are beautiful beyond description  
Majesty, enthroned above*

*And I stand, I stand in awe of You  
I stand, I stand in awe of You  
Holy God to whom all praise is due  
I stand in awe of You*

### **Opening prayer :**

Father as we come before you  
in the stillness and silence of this night,  
we pray now, that our hearts and minds  
will linger in your Love ....

that we may seek you in the depths of our beings.....  
That we may leave our burdens  
at the foot of your cross,  
and looking up may dwell in Your Risen Glory....  
that we may *know* you in the fullness of our hearts.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen**

### **Reflection : new beginnings**

We all must have learnt a lot about ourselves over the last year, stuff deeply personal, stuff universal: from the things we feel deprived of to the things we cherish; from how we cope without our props in life, to how we indulge ourselves on negative days! Maybe one of those universal things is the quintessential human need to belong. Our normal groups and herds may have been dismantled, but we have soon replaced them with things like Whats App, facetime and Zoom. We don't *belong* in isolation. In our teaching today we hear two incidents of God "Calling". God is *always* Calling as God knows our need to belong. He placed that need within us before the beginning of time, like a homing signal to assist our return to Him. At the start of the new year we are reminded of that Call, to re-awaken us from our slumber, to invite us into the journey of discipleship. A Calling is an invitation ..... an invitation to belong..... and *invitation* awaits an answer .

*Our first reading talks of the deep belonging :*

### **Psalm 139**

Oh God you know me inside out,  
through and through.  
Everything I do,  
every thought that flits through my mind,  
every step I take,  
every plan I make,  
every word I speak,  
You know, even before these things happen.  
You know my past;  
You know my future.  
Your enveloping presence covers my every move.  
Your knowledge of me sometimes comforts me,  
sometimes frightens me,  
but it is always far beyond my comprehension.  
There is no way to escape you

No place to hide.  
If I ascend to the heights of joy,  
You are there before me.  
If I plunge into the depths of despair.  
You are there to meet me.  
I could fly to the other side of the world  
and find you there to lead the way.  
I could walk into the darkest night,  
only to find you there  
to lighten its dismal hours.  
You were present at my conception.  
You guided the moulding of my unformed members  
within the body of my mother.  
Nothing about me from beginning to end,  
has been hidden from your eyes.  
How frightfully, fantastically wonderful it all is!  
May your all-knowing, everywhere-present Spirit  
continue to search out my feelings and thoughts.  
Deliver me from that which may hurt or destroy me,  
and guide me along the paths of love and truth.  
from "Psalms Now"

*Followed by Silent Reflection to dwell in these words*

*Our second reading is from 1 Samuel 3:1-20 : The "Calling" of Samuel*

**3** In those days, when the boy Samuel was serving the LORD under the direction of Eli, there were very few messages from the LORD, and visions from him were quite rare. **2** One night Eli, who was now almost blind, was sleeping in his own room; **3** Samuel was sleeping in the sanctuary, where the sacred Covenant Box was. Before dawn, while the lamp was still burning, **4** the LORD called Samuel. He answered, "Yes, sir!" **5** and ran to Eli and said, "You called me, and here I am." But Eli answered, "I didn't call you; go back to bed." So Samuel went back to bed. **6-7** The LORD called Samuel again. The boy did not know that it was the LORD, because the LORD had never spoken to him before. So he got up, went to Eli, and said, "You called me, and here I am."  
But Eli answered, "My son, I didn't call you; go back to bed."  
**8** The LORD called Samuel a third time; he got up, went to Eli, and said, "You called me, and here I am."

Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy, <sup>9</sup> so he said to him, "Go back to bed; and if he calls you again, say, 'Speak, LORD, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed.

**10** The LORD came and stood there, and called as he had before, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel answered, "Speak; your servant is listening."

*Followed by silent reflection to dwell in these words*

*Oswald Chambers said : The call of God is not just for a select few but for everyone. Whether I hear God's call or not depends on the condition of my ears and exactly what I hear depends upon my spiritual attitude."*

*God is always calling, if we stop still long enough to listen .....*

*Our reading from the New Testament is from John 1:43-51 : Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael*

**43** The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come with me!" (**44** Philip was from Bethsaida, the town where Andrew and Peter lived.) **45** Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one whom Moses wrote about in the book of the Law and whom the prophets also wrote about. He is Jesus son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

**46** "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," answered Philip.

**47** When Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, he said about him, "Here is a real Israelite; there is nothing false in him!"

**48** Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered, "I saw you when you were under the fig tree before Philip called you."

**49** "Teacher," answered Nathanael, "you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

**50** Jesus said, "Do you believe just because I told you I saw you when you were under the fig tree? You will see much greater things than this!" **51** And he said to them, "I am telling you the truth: you will see heaven open and God's angels going up and coming down on the Son of Man."

*The Collect for the day :*

Eternal Lord,  
our beginning and our end:

bring us with the whole creation  
to your glory, hidden through past ages  
and made known  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Time for personal reflection :

*We think about God's calling to us in our own lives.....  
His "giftings" to us .....  
at different times and in different ways ....  
How we responded .....  
how we respond today .....  
what our hearts seek.....  
what obstacles we put in its way.*

**Prayer of intercession :** *during our prayer, we will keep periods of quiet and reflection please dwell in the stillness so that the words spoken become the prayer of your heart.*

We reflect upon our week: ..... *silence*

We are grateful for the love shared .....  
We are grateful for provision and nurture.....  
we are grateful for kindness given .....

We pray for forgiveness for the sorrow we've caused .....  
We pray for forgiveness for injustices ignored .....

We bid you welcome  
in the chance of transformation and new beginnings .....  
We bid you welcome  
in the encounters with You today, in stranger and friend .....

We welcome you, Jesus of Nazareth  
through the times of emptiness,  
and through nights of desolation  
when we feel we have run dry .....  
We remember that you walked into the nights

and darkness of those people you met,  
inviting them to justice, and truth, to love and to Life.....

For those whose nights are desolate let us pray to the Lord  
that *they* may have the consolation of prayer,  
peaceful solitude, and community. ....

For justice in Society:  
for trust and friendship between all people,  
each one created in the image of God  
and called to His kingdom:  
Let us pray to the Lord.....  
For *all* on the journey of discipleship and Love  
That we may hear, and encounter,  
and know within our selves  
the constancy of God's Love and support,  
that will give us the faith, and the courage,  
to truly live as His people,  
now and forever more:  
Let us pray to the Lord .....

We pray for a peaceful night ,.....  
We pray for a hopeful day,.....  
We pray for a deeper generosity ,.....

**We say our Lords prayer : Our Father ....**

Followed by a prayer during this time of Coronavirus:

Ever present God,  
be with us in our isolation,  
be close to us in our distancing,  
be healing in our sickness,  
be joy in our sadness,  
be light in our darkness,  
be wisdom in our confusion,  
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,  
that when the doors reopen  
we may with the zeal of Pentecost  
inhabit our communities

and speak of your goodness  
to an emerging world.  
For Jesus' sake. Amen.

**Final prayer: Celtic Benediction**

As a new day dawns  
we welcome the light of new beginnings.  
Open our eyes Lord,  
that we may know you  
in new opportunities,  
new people to meet,  
new love to give  
new praise to worship.  
In gratitude for this moment,  
this place, this time,  
in gratitude for those around us,  
for Christ among us,  
we give ourselves to you.  
Take us out to live as changed people,  
because we have met the risen Christ,  
and cannot be the same,  
that may we live to your glory  
both as inhabitants of this earth  
and as citizens of heaven. Amen.

**We share the Grace:**

May the grace of our lord Jesus Christ  
and the Love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all  
now and for evermore

**Reflection for the week:**

*Will You Come And Follow Me  
If I But Call Your Name?  
Will You Go Where You Don't Know  
And Never Be The Same?  
Will You Let My Love Be Shown,*

*Will You Let My Name Be Known,  
Will You Let My Life Be Grown  
In You And You In Me?*

*Will You Leave Yourself Behind  
If I But Call Your Name?  
Will You Care For Cruel And Kind  
And Never Be The Same?  
Will You Risk The Hostile Stare  
Should Your Life Attract Or Scare?  
Will You Let Me Answer Prayer  
In You And You In Me?*

*Will You Let The Blinded See  
If I But Call Your Name?  
Will You Set The Prisoners Free  
And Never Be The Same?  
Will You Kiss The Leper Clean,  
And Do Such As This Unseen,  
And Admit To What I Mean  
In You And You In Me?*

*Will You Love The 'You' You Hide  
If I But Call Your Name?  
Will You Quell The Fear Inside  
And Never Be The Same?  
Will You Use The Faith You've Found  
To Reshape The World Around,  
Through My Sight And Touch And Sound  
In You And You In Me?*

*Lord, Your Summons Echoes True  
When You But Call My Name.  
Let Me Turn And Follow You  
And Never Be The Same.  
In Your Company I'll Go  
Where Your Love And Footsteps Show.  
Thus I'll Move And Live And Grow  
In You And You In Me.*