**A suggested Order of Service for Local Preachers’ Sunday**

**‘Come and See’**

**Call to Worship (based on Psalm 34: 3, 8)**

Magnify the Lord with me;   
   *let us lift up God’s name together.*Taste and see that the Lord is good;   
*happy are all who trust in God.*

**Hymn 157 (*StF*)** - God has spoken – by his prophets [*H&Pss* 64]

**Prayer of Adoration** – ‘Loving God, you draw light out of darkness’ [Tom Stuckey, *Pray Without Ceasing – Methodist Prayer Handbook 2005-6*, p.3; © Tom Stuckey]

Loving God, you draw light out of darkness and coax beauty from chaos.

You spread rainbow promise across time and space.

You make music and song in the sounds of creation.

You paint pictures of glory in the stars and the clouds.

You scatter the sparks of creative initiative.

You penetrate madness with wisdom and truth.

You weave patterns of hope in the traumas of history.

You lavish your love-gifts in boundless excess.

You grace us with peace and with warm hospitality.

You welcome each person regardless of race.

You invite us to dine at the table of plenty.

You fill us with faith, with hope and with joy.

You come to us, believe in us, embrace us, and stay with us,

*for you are our God, our redeemer and friend***.**

*Amen*

**Prayer of Confession** – ‘Creator of all’ [© 2017, *Prayer of Confession,* The United Reformed Church]

Creator of all, you call us into relationship with you and each other, we recognise our need to confess the things that cause our hearts to be heavy.

When we hear your word and fail to let it speak to us...When we have listened and yet not heard: *Forgive us Lord*.

When we have ignored the teachings of Jesus and gone our own way...When we have heard and yet not acted: *Forgive us Lord*.

When we behave as if you are completely beyond us, not standing beside us...When we act on the prompting of your Spirit but fail to share love: *Forgive us Lord*.

Help us to know your forgiveness and share it with others. Encourage us to listen, hear, act and share you with all people, as you call us into your glorious future. *Amen*

**Reading - Psalm 66 vv. 1-9 & 16-20 (*StF* 812)** (said responsively) [this Psalm is not available in *Hymns & Psalms*]

**Hymn 158 (*StF*)** – Lord, you sometimes speak in wonders [or 483 (*H&Pss*) - Thanks to God whose Word has spoken]

**Reading – Amos 7: 10-15**

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| Preaching hint:  This is Amos’ apologia to the official priest at Bethel that he was not a professional prophet but had a secular occupation and that the Lord took him and told him to speak God’s words to God’s people |

**Responding to God’s call – video/ drama/ testimony**

**Video:**

**either** <https://youtu.be/YSdlzDl4rmc> (Catherine Wells describes her call to be a Local Preacher – 00.00 to 02:09)

**or** <https://youtu.be/lj5xttEMJHg> (Tiras Dainty-Share speaks about his calls to youth work and local preaching – 00.00 to 03:58)

**OR**

**Drama:** [‘You can’t possibly mean me’](https://churchsupporthub.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Drama-You-cant-possibly-mean-me.pdf) [© 2007, Rosalind Selby, *You Can’t Possibly Mean Me*, The United Reformed Church]

**OR**

**‘Come and See’**: Invite two or three people (probably pre-arranged) to each briefly describe one way in which they have been specially aware of God’s presence and call in their everyday lives during the past week. (This could be done ‘live’ or could be pre-recorded as an audio/video file, using a smartphone and plug-in lapel microphone, and played/projected in the service.)

**Hymn 728 (*StF*)** – O God, you search me and you know me [or 428 (*H&Pss*) - There is no moment of my life]

**Reading – John 1:35-51**

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| Preaching hint:  This contains a number of layers of invitations:   * John the Baptist to Andrew - ‘here is the Lamb of God’ * Jesus to Andrew - ‘Come and see’ * Andrew to Peter - ‘We have found’ & ‘He brought’ * Jesus - ‘found Philip’ * Philip invites a sceptical Nathaniel - ‘Come and see’   It offers a helpful reminder of the diversity of potential journeys into faith. |

**Sermon or equivalent**

**Hymn 660 (*StF*)**  – Called by Christ to be disciples [or 141 (*H&Pss*) - Jesus calls us o'er the tumult

**Prayer of thanksgiving** [© Jane Bingham]

Thank you God

for the world we live in;

for the people we are - made in your image;

for the complexity of our universe;

for the wisdom of children;

for food that sustains us;

for the life of Jesus;

for health and wellbeing;

for challenge and choice;

for age and experience;

for your Spirit who accompanies us;

for the invitation to come and see;

for the freedom to worship you.

Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you!

Amen

(One person could read these prayers or, alternatively, lots of people could be given the prayer and each read a line as they felt able with the leader starting and finishing.)

**Prayers of intercession** [© Jane Bingham]

Loving God, we thank you that your Son, Jesus, came to bring us life in all its fullness. We bring our concerns and needs before you now: reach out and touch your troubled world, when it seems full of hatred and suffering, famine and poverty; when pride and self-gratification mean more than striving for peace and love for others. We think particularly today of … (insert places/issues of concern, maybe from the day’s news)

*Silence*

Lord, help us to listen to your voice and respond to your call to bring hope to this troubled world

Loving God, reach out and bless our community: those we worship with, live with and work with, and especially those known to us who are ill or in need of comfort.

*Silence* (or if it is your usual pattern bring prayer requests for your local community here using the prompt: ‘We offer to your care…’)

Lord, help us to listen to your voice and respond to your call to speak out for the voiceless and support those who are troubled.

Loving God, reach out and inspire those who hold positions of leadership, in government and business, churches and charities, education and health. Encourage in all leaders a spirit of integrity and generosity and enable them to see the way ahead clearly. In particular, today we hold before you those who are preachers and leaders of worship in your church, who preach and teach, lead and inspire, nurture and encourage the people of God.

*Silence* (you may choose to name those from your church community who are Local Preachers or Worship Leaders here using the prompt: ‘We give thanks for those who lead our worship…)

Lord, help us to listen to your voice and respond to your call to lead or to serve wherever you need us.

Loving God, reach out and revitalise Local Preachers who lead worship in challenging places, that they will be able to speak of grace where there is despair or hopelessness; that they will be empowered to speak of love in a world which finds love hard to find; that they will find quiet words of truth to challenge the noisy opinions shouted by the world at large.

*Silence*

Lord, help us each to listen to your voice and respond to your call to share the story of our own faith journey with others.

Loving God, reach out to each one of us: fill us with your Spirit as we carefully consider those aspects of our lives that need your healing presence.

*Silence*

Lord, help us to listen to your voice and learn to trust your loving grace at work in our lives.

Loving God, fill our minds with wisdom, our mouths with clarity, and our hearts with love. Help us to follow the example of Jesus and live out your will with every fibre of our being.

Amen

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn 662 (*StF*)**  – Have you heard God’s voice? [or 86 (*H&Pss*) - Tell out, my soul]

**Blessing**

**\* Notices and Offering at the normal place in this church**

***StF = Singing the Faith; H&Pss = Hymns & Psalms***

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| **Additional resources relating to John 1:35-51** | | | |
| Author | Title | Page | Subtitle |
| Edmund Banyard | *Reaching for the Infinite* (Birmingham: National Christian Education Council, 2000) | 23 | Sharing the Good News |
| Edmund Banyard | *Heaven and Charing Cross (*Birmingham: National Christian Education Council, 1996) | 38 | The First Thing He Did |
| Paul Glass | *Companion to Revised Common Lectionary: Volume 9 – Dramatic Dialogues* (Peterborough: Epworth, 2003) | 11 |  |
| Dave Tomlinson | *Running Into God* (London: SPCK, 2004) | 23-29 | Conversations with God |
| Bob Hartman | *Telling The Bible* (Oxford: Lion, 2004) | 126 (for children) | Three Men and a Fig Tree |