



46B PENTECOST 6B ONLINE LITURGY

God is sufficient

Abstract

He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.
He was amazed at their lack of faith.
Mark 6:5-6

46B Pentecost 6B Neil Street Liturgy
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GOSPEL

Mark 6:1–13

6 Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. ² When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? ³ Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

⁴ Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” ⁵ He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶ He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. ⁷ Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

⁸ These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹ Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. ¹¹ And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

¹² They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³ They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them. ⁱ

respond

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

46B Pentecost 6B Online Liturgy

God is sufficient

Sunday, July 4, 2021 | After Pentecost | Proper 9 | Year B

Old Testament & Psalm, Option I

Old Testament 2 Samuel 5:1–5, 9–10

Psalm Psalm 48

or

Old Testament & Psalm, Option II

Old Testament Ezekiel 2:1–5

Psalm Psalm 123

New Testament 2 Corinthians 12:2–10

Gospel Mark 6:1–13ⁱⁱ

Jesus teaches in his hometown but is shunned by those present there. After this he continues healing and teaching. He then sends out his disciples to continue his work, travelling in pairs and taking nothing extra with them. They teach about repentance and cure the sick.

We are not told how the disciples fared under these conditions, but we are told that their mission was a success. The disciples' willingness to be vulnerable and to trust in God was a key element of this, and one that contrasts with a world view in which vulnerability and a lack of material resources are seen as weaknesses.

This week we explore being prepared to be vulnerable.ⁱⁱⁱ

	<p>Pre-Service Broken vessels (amazing Grace) – background music</p>
	<p>Introit This is the day HS 106/AHB 14: "Now thank we all our God"</p>
	<p>Greeting</p> <p>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all</p> <p>and also with you</p>
	<p>We Gather</p> <p>The greatness and power of God are such a contrast to our weakness – yet, our God loves us. The holiness and goodness of God are such a contrast to our sinful nature – yet, our God loves us.</p>

	<p>Come, offer your praise and thanksgiving, and give glory and honour to our God.</p> <p>Acknowledgements</p> <p>A gathering prayer <i>Let us pray</i> Lord God, King of the universe, we thank you for sending your Son, our Saviour, as a helpless and vulnerable baby, dependent on the love and care of flawed human beings.</p> <p>As we come to worship, may we make ourselves vulnerable – open to receive more of your power, mercy, and love – so that we can share that with others, when we are sent to serve you. Amen.</p>
	<p>We say Sorry We bow before you, O God, and we confess that we have let you down. We have turned away from you and gone our own way.</p> <p>We have allowed material things to dominate our lives, and to occupy our minds.</p> <p>We are sorry, and we lay everything at your feet. We are sorry that we overcomplicate everything.</p> <p>Help us to learn how to be still and know that you are God. Help us to seek simplicity, to slow down and not to hurry, to require nothing more than what you give, and to fear being vulnerable, so that we can be complete in your presence. Amen.</p>
	<p>Words of Assurance Jesus Christ, you died and rose again that we might be released from all the worldly things that weigh us down. Thank you that we are forgiven, that our chains are gone, and we have been set free to serve you once again. Amen.</p>
	<p>Hymn/song TIS 650: “Brother, sister let me serve you” TIS 640: “Kneels at the feet of his friends” TIS #411 – “Filled with the Spirit’s power, with one accord”</p>
	<p>Welcome Pentecost 6B</p>

NAIDOC week

The NAIDOC 2021 theme – Heal Country!

It calls for all of us to continue to seek greater protections
for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites
and our cultural heritage
from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

Country that is more than a place and inherent to our identity.

Country that we speak about like a person,
sustaining our lives in every aspect
spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially, and culturally.

NAIDOC 2021 invites the nation

to embrace First Nations' cultural knowledge
and understanding of Country
as part of Australia's national heritage
and equally respect the culture and values
of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders
as they do the cultures and values of all Australians.

For generations

we have been calling for stronger measures
to recognise, protect, and maintain
all aspects of our culture and heritage.

We are still waiting for those robust protections.

This year's theme also seeks

substantive institutional, structural, and collaborative reform
something generations of our Elders and communities
have been advocating, marching and fighting for.

Healing Country means

finally resolving many of the outstanding injustices
which impact on the lives of our people.

It is about hearing and actioning

the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
which are the culmination of generations of consultation and discussions
among our nations on a range of issues and grievances.

After 250 years, our children and our future generations deserve better.

We cannot afford to let pass

the very real opportunity that now presents itself
for reform based on a fundamental change in the relationship
Australia has with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Heal Country, heal our nation.

NAIDOC Week 2021 will be held from Sunday 4 July to Sunday 11 July.^{iv}

God is sufficient

I have been preaching for 24 years
 Every time I preach I pray
 Lord use me to get your message across
 May they see you through my preaching
 And if I stuff up – Give me the strength to cope.

Everyone stuffs up, I do all the time
 We have the idea, the Mission plan, the resources
 Then it doesn't work out.
 Even Jesus!!

This week Jesus teaches in his hometown but is shunned by those present there.
 After this he continues healing and teaching.
 Then He then sends out his disciples to continue his work,
 travelling in pairs and taking nothing extra with them.

We aren't told how they go,
 but we are told that their mission was a success.
 The disciples' willingness to be vulnerable and to trust in God
 was a key element of this, and one that contrasts with a world view
 in which vulnerability and a lack of material resources are seen as weaknesses.

This week we explore being prepared to be vulnerable.

Let us pray
 Heavenly Father, heavenly King,
 we come before you today just as we are.
 We come to listen and to learn.
 We come and lay everything down
 to stand in your awesome presence.

Amen.

Readings

Mark 6:1-13 Video

respond
 For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn/Song

Be thou my vision

Address

Like a Phoenix

Mark 6:1-13

Almost every culture has a myth of the Phoenix or firebird.
 we tend to be most familiar with the Greek Phoenix which,

is said to die in a burst of sparks and fire
only to be born anew from its own ashes.

While early Christians adopted the mythic bird
as a symbol for Jesus Christ, Easter, and resurrection.
Today it remains an appropriate symbol for any Christian
who has had to face the reality of failure
and the struggle to rise from the ashes.

The Modern Phoenix

Phoenix stories abound in our culture:

Colonel Sanders, the founder of KFC,
started his dream at 65 years old
after receiving a social security check for only \$105.
The only marketable skill he had was frying chicken.

Theodor “Dr. Seuss” Giesel’s first book,
was rejected by 27 different publishers before he finally sold it.
Steven Spielberg applied and twice was denied admission both times
to the University of Southern California film school.
Now he’s worth \$2.7 billion
and in 1994 got an honorary degree from the film school that rejected him.
Stephen King’s first book *Carrie* was rejected thirty times

We often make the mistake of thinking that people who are successful don’t fail.
The truth is that they fail, often,
but they let their failures inform them
they let their failures define them.

Jesus as Phoenix

In the reading,
Jesus experiences failure
and then offered advice to his disciples about how they should handle it.
Jesus, we are told, went to his hometown and taught in the synagogue
but these were his old neighbours and his family.
They knew him when he was a little kid,
when he had scabs on his knees, teased his little sisters.
His father was the carpenter who fixed their roof and rehung their doors.
They knew him and he was no big deal to them.

And because they aren’t receptive, he was unable to help them.
I always thought Jesus could do anything but, apparently, he can’t.
He can’t help those who won’t be helped.

Mark tells us, Jesus is amazed at this situation.
Why won’t they listen to him, accept him, learn from him?
Jesus just didn’t get it. But he did accept it.
He did what he could — healed a couple of people — and moved on.

And when he was giving advice to his disciples

about how they should go about doing ministry,
he remembered this lesson and advised them accordingly:
First, travel lightly.
Don't burden yourself with extra provisions trying to cover any possible eventuality.
And this applies not just to your physical provisions
but to your mental/emotional ones as well.
Take your faith with you
but don't feel like you have to pack every answer to every question
in your mental suitcase.
Give yourself the freedom to trust in the Lord a little bit.

Second, be a good guest.
If someone invites you to stay with them,
accept gracefully and stay with them.
Don't be moving around trying to get a better deal, a softer bed.

And third,
if you go somewhere and they reject you or refuse to listen to you, leave.
This business about shaking the dust off your shoes
was an old Jewish ritual that people in those days practiced.
If they went outside Israel,
when they returned and crossed the border,
they would turn and shake the dust off their shoes
which symbolized that they were now cutting their ties
with those who were not of their faith.

Jesus suggested that this was an appropriate ritual — literally or figuratively
for anyone whose ministry is rejected.
If you're a doctor and you tell your patient to stop smoking and he doesn't...
If you're a teacher and you tell your students to do their homework, and they don't...
If you're a dentist and you tell your patients to brush and floss, and they don't...
If you're a dietitian and you give your client a diet plan but she doesn't follow it...

Well, there's only so much responsibility you can take for other people, right?
Kick the dust off your shoes and move on.

Tools for the Road

But it's not always that easy, is it?
We feel responsible.
It's hard to just cut your ties and move on
so God has given us four things to help us let go of failure.
Actually, probably more than four, but four will do for today.

One, is grace.

We are not saved by our success rate.
We are not saved by our ability to meet our goals.
We are not saved by our accomplishments or our achievements.
We are saved by God's grace, God's unconditional love for us, and that is all.

If we fail,
we need not worry that our value as a human being

is somehow going to be lessened,
that God is going to love us less.

Our failures do not count against us.

When we let loose of them,
they part of the past.

Two, is our capacity to learn.

We can learn from our failures.

Learn all you can from that failure, *then let it go.*

We can let go of our failures
because we have learned from them,
we have let them inform but not determine our future choices.

Three, is our capacity for story.

Each failure is a story to tell
with humour, with grace, with wit, with fun
so others can learn from it as well.

We do not have the right to hoard our failures to ourselves.
Our failures are gifts that have been given to us
and we owe it to the world to share them with others.

One of the things that separates us from other animals
is our capacity to learn from the experience of others,
and we dare not withhold that capacity from those who might benefit from it.

My experience can be of value to others
and my failures are as much of my experience as my successes.
If all I share with others only are my success stories,
I'm denying them a major part of the gifts that have been given to me.
We can let go of our failures because they are occasions for learning,
not just for me, but for those I love as well.

And the fourth tool, the fourth gift that God has given to us in our failures, is that they teach us empathy.

They teach us what other people feel like.
They expand our capacity for being with and going with others
who are facing uncertain roads ahead.

Here is a TED Talk by Doctor Abraham Verghese.

https://www.ted.com/talks/abraham_verghese_a_doctor_s_touch/transcript?language=en#t-1097944 15:06 - end1^v

Our Failures — Our Gifts

Our failures in life can be painful, even heartbreaking.

No one is denying that.

But what our faith offers us is a choice.

I can, by God's grace, walk through them, learn from them,
and then go on to the next thing,
or I can choose to put down my roots there and dwell in them.

I can ignore them or I can learn from them.

We can, with time, come to see our failures as gifts, given to us to share,
 along with the lessons we have learned from them, with others.
 Or we can simply pretend they didn't happen,
 learn nothing and, consequently let no one else learn anything, either.

Our failures can,
 if we wrap them in our faith in God
 and our love for each other,
 be amazing gifts that can heal, edify, encourage
 and maybe even save those who are hurting, lonely, and lost in their own failures.
 Amen.

	<p>Hymn/song Iona/ATO 413 The Summons Bell</p>
	<p>Prayers for all people Lord, just as you sent out your disciples of old to share the Gospel, we pray today for all people who serve in the field of mission, at home or abroad. For all those in ministry and leadership within the church. For all those making themselves vulnerable by sharing of you. Lord, Strengthen and protect your people sharing the Gospel.</p> <p>We pray for the conflicts and tensions raging throughout the world hatred, bombings, corruption. We pray for all those caught up in such situations. And for the people working to bring about reconciliation. Merciful God sufficient, Diffuse hatred and bring peace to the world.</p> <p>We pray for all countries struggling to cope with the pandemic due to lack of resources and vaccines. For India coping with another epidemic. For those everywhere who are sick; be it in mind or body. For those who put their own lives at risk to help save others. For the for the lonely, the isolated and bereaved. Merciful God sufficient, Restore health, comfort and console.</p> <p>We pray for those in our community who may have lost their jobs due to the pandemic or have been put off and are worrying about rent arrears. Or their future, as holiday pay begins to wind down. For all the homeless living on the streets Some with only a cardboard roof over their heads. Merciful God sufficient, bring strength and reassurance; transform lives.</p> <p>When the disciples were sent out, they were instructed to take no food with them. We pray for all people who live every day not knowing where their next meal is coming from. For all those who rely on aid or food banks to put a meal on the table. Merciful God sufficient, Feed and nourish those in need.</p>

	<p>Lord, in you we have freedom. We pray for our leaders, state and federal, all our governments and advisors as they deliberate on restrictions as we head to what society may consider 'Freedom Day'.</p> <p>Merciful God sufficient, Give wisdom and guidance in all things. May all people know true freedom in you. Amen.</p>
	<p>Lord's Prayer</p> <p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.</p> <p>Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN.^{vi}</p>
	<p>Hymn/song</p> <p>TIS #224 (AHB #159) – "All hail the power of Jesus' name"</p>
	<p>We are sent out</p> <p>Lord, you sent your disciples into the world to share your word with those in need – may we approach this coming week with a similar desire.</p> <p>You sent them carrying little but trusting much – may we live this week with a similar attitude.</p> <p>May our lives be less about us and our needs, and more about you, and your love and care for all people in all places and circumstances. May we love as you love. We ask in your name. Amen.</p>

	<p>May the Lord bless us and keep us May His face shine upon us and be gracious to us May he lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace Amen</p>
	<p>Benediction Sent forth by God's blessing TIS 531 SA 76</p>
	<p>Post service - Thank you Broken vessels (amazing Grace) – background music</p>

ⁱ [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

ⁱⁱ [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

ⁱⁱⁱ © Copyright 2002-2021, ROOTS for Churches Ltd. All rights reserved.

^{iv} <https://www.naidoc.org.au/news/2021-naidoc-week-theme-announced-heal-country>

^v https://www.ted.com/talks/abraham_verghese_a_doctor_s_touch/transcript?language=en#t-1097944

15:06 - end

^{vi} English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988.