

Worship Material
Good news for everybody
Material from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 26th January

Begin with an opening prayer

Loving God,
thank you that all are welcome in your presence
and all have a part to play.

Speak to us today and show us how to live
as the body of Christ in this community,
bringing good news to all.

Amen.

Read Luke 4:14-21

Bible notes

We meet Jesus on his way from Galilee to Nazareth and the synagogue there. Here is the Jewish teacher standing in the place of worship on the Sabbath. He quotes from Isaiah 61:1-2 and Isaiah 58:6. This great liberation call is the reply to his mother Mary's own words in the Magnificat. Jesus proclaims that the freedom foreseen by Isaiah has arrived in his own person. This is an identifying moment in the Gospel, in keeping with the Epiphany theme of the person of Jesus being revealed to us anew. Jesus is the one who is meeting the hopes and expectations of the prophets of old. The year of the Lord was one of great eschatological promise and is now here, as Jesus begins his ministry. Those who are on the outside, on the margins, are being brought in. Those who might typically be excluded are welcomed by Jesus. We see this embodied in his ministry as he eats and drinks with socially unacceptable people. This gospel is topsy-turvy – the things that we think we should value, the power structures of the world and the values of society – are questioned.

Prayer

We give thanks, O God, for the magnificence of your creation,
its vibrant diversity, its provision for us.

We give thanks for the rich cultures of the world
and all they add to the mix of life.

We give thanks for each other,
with all our differences and quirky ways.

We give thanks for your recorded Word through the ages.

We give thanks for the life of Jesus, supreme example to us
of the outworking of your love.

We give thanks for the outpouring of your Holy Spirit
to comfort, warm and guide us.

We give thanks for all this good news,
in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A prayer to conclude

Lord Jesus, you were anointed to bring new sight,
freedom and good news to all people.

Help us to share this good news of your love and care
with everyone we meet in the week ahead.

Amen.