



CANDIDATES SUNDAY WORSHIP

CONGREGATIONAL SONG CHOICES

- 'Jesus, be the centre' (SASB 373)
- 'Blessed assurance' (SASB 455)
- 'Saviour, teach me day by day' (SASB 673)
- 'Seek ye first' (SASB 675)
- 'Awake, my soul' (SASB 4)
- 'Be thou my vision' (SASB 573)
- 'Before the throne of God above' (SASB 243)
- 'Brother, sister, let me serve you' (SASB 1005)
- 'Open the eyes of my heart, Lord' (SASB 270)
- 'Indescribable' (Laura Story, recorded by Chris Tomlin)
- '10,000 reasons (Bless the Lord)' (Matt Redman)
- 'Hear the call of the Kingdom' (Keith Getty And Stuart Townend)
- 'Go anywhere' (Rend Co Kids)
- 'God, grant to me a vision new' (Harry Read/Denise Brine) - see Appendix A

For reflective listening:

- '[How can I keep from singing](#)' (Audrey Assad)
- '[Turn your eyes upon Jesus](#)' (Lauren Daigle)

CREATIVE CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Five senses guessing:**

In small groups or pairs, guess items using one of your senses. Assure each volunteer that there will be nothing nasty to taste, smell, or feel!

- Touch - Fill a box with items such as a fluffy toy, mug, toy car, set of keys, small cross. Either cover with a tea towel or have a lid with a hole cut out, then insert your hand into the box to feel the items you can't see. Take turns guessing what you feel.
- Smell - Prepare a set of small jars with a few drops of flavourings (mint, lemon, strawberry), herbs (basil, rosemary), lotions/shampoo (lavender, rose, coconut, mango). Sniff each one and guess what the scent is.
- Listen - Find a variety of sound effects, either recorded (rain, traffic noise, birdsong) or live (bang a pot, turn pages of a book, squeak a chair) and identify what they are.
- Taste - Guess the flavours of jelly beans or chocolates.

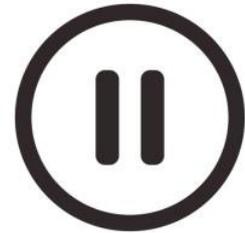
Our senses help us know what is going on around us. How can we be more aware of what God is doing around us?



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- **Pause**

Create a slide or print out on A3 paper a 'pause' icon. Explain that from time to time the congregation will see a pause icon which will be a signal for everything to stop for about 30 seconds so that even in the midst of worship we can give ourselves opportunity to pay attention to what God is saying to us.



In Colossians 3:2 we are instructed to ***set our hearts on things above***. This implies the need in our lives to avoid drifting along but instead to be intentional and focused on what really matters. As we gather in worship today, perhaps sitting in our usual seat, enjoying a familiar pattern of worship and listening to Bible readings we know well, singing songs we have probably sung before, it is easy not to be as attentive as we could be. In the Old Testament, they had a remedy for such a possibility. Read together Psalm 47:1-4.

This reading and others in the Psalms contain the odd little word 'Selah'. This is not just a random word but an instruction to the musicians and singers who would have originally used this instruction to take a little rest. It was designed as a natural pause for reflection on the words that preceded it. The word comes from another Hebrew word which means 'to measure' or to 'weigh up the situation carefully'. The Bible gives us instruction to take a moment to really think about what we have just said or done in our worship together.

- **Flying saucers**

Provide a big tub of flying saucer sweets and hand them out. Ask the questions:

- What would you do if you saw a real flying saucer? Point to the sky and say 'Look!' Is your mind on heavenly things?
- Ask people to examine their flying saucer and describe it to someone sitting next to them: What colour is it, what is the texture, what sound does it make, what does it smell like? (don't eat it yet!)
- Ask people to put the flying saucer in their mouth, and as it dissolves to notice how it changes. How has God brought change in your life? Are you more sweet or sour? Are you fizzy or flat?
- In what ways could other sweets or foods remind you to keep focused on God?



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- **Get the keys back! (also known as 'Castle Keys')**

Place a set of keys under a chair at the front, and ask a volunteer to sit on it with the blindfold on. Choose volunteers from the congregation to retrieve the keys without the blindfolded person knowing - their job is to point in the direction of any noise they might hear and so try to stop the task being accomplished.

This activity helps us understand the importance of being alert and aware of what is going on around us.

- **Trumpets**

This could be used either to introduce the theme at the beginning, or as a fanfare sounded prior to worship - something that people will not be expecting!

Made of a variety of materials, ranging from animal horns, copper, brass, silver-plated brass, steel and even pure silver, a trumpet of some kind is used in virtually every country on earth. Because the trumpet is audible at great distances, it is used in war and worship. Every army has its trumpeters or buglers to draw the attention of the troops, to sound the alarm or to convey a general's commands to his army.

Play some of the different bugle calls' below. Does anyone recognise any?

- [Church](#)
- [Taps](#)
- [Tattoo](#)
- [Reveille](#)

(or search online for British Army bugle calls)

In the Bible the blowing of a horn or trumpet was used for many purposes, but all of them had something to do with alerting the people that something was happening and to respond in some way.

Candidates Sunday is a time when there is a focus on the call of God upon our lives for service and can become for us a trumpet call to awaken our hearts, minds and spirits to pay attention to what God wants to say to us. Today let us be alert to the trumpet call and shake off any complacency we have settled into and to gather our distracted thoughts as we are reminded to focus on what God wants to reveal to us of himself and his plans.



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- **'Whodunnit?'**

How often do we get so caught up with what seems to be important that we miss what else may actually be going on? Watch the video '[Test your awareness: Whodunnit?](#)'. Did anyone notice the changes? Why was it hard to see the changes at the time?

As an additional activity to do on the spot or to take into the week, give each group in your corps the equivalent questions below to discuss together (add or change as needed).

1. **Musical groups (band, songsters, singing company...)**
 - a) What is the main purpose of this group?
 - b) What other ways is it being used?
 - c) How else could God use this group? Do you know of any stories that show how God has used this group in unexpected ways?
2. **Midweek groups (toddlers, home league, CAMEO...)**
 - a) What is the main purpose of the parent-and-toddler group?
 - b) What other things could parent-and-toddlers do?
 - c) How else is God at work through the parent-and-toddler group? Do you know of any stories that show how God has used parent-and-toddlers?
3. **Work and education (job, school...)**
 - a) How do you feel in your situation?
 - b) What are your concerns, your worries, or what do you look forward to?
 - c) How is God at work in this situation?

If time allows, draw out some of the small group discussions and then relate it back to Colossians 3:1-2. Remind people how in all situations we need to be alert to what God is doing and not get distracted or focus on anything other than Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.



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CREATIVE WORSHIP IDEAS

- **Creative Videos**
 - 'Your life is hidden'
 - 'Typography'

- **Conversation with God (Monologue)**

Hi God, I am ready to talk to you... are you there?

Oh yes, sorry, I forgot, you are always there!

I wanted to ask you about this calling thing. What does it mean? Every year we are asked to consider our calling but I'm not sure what it really means. Can you help me?

Oh - you are saying the time I stood on that hill I climbed and looked over the countryside and thought how beautiful it was... that was a calling? How come? You are saying you called me to consider your creative power and marvel at the magnificence of what was before me. All right, I get that, it was a sort of spiritual moment, I agree.

But what about serving you? I've never experienced that call, have I? No, helping with the soup run and serving at the food bank - that wasn't a calling... was it? Oh, you say I saw the needs of others and responded by serving them, and by doing that I was serving you? I didn't see it like that, but yes, I understand.

But what about this calling to be an officer or a territorial envoy? You definitely haven't called me for that...have you? Ah, got you there! You say you're working on that? Well, let me tell you, you are going to have to work very hard!

What do you mean, you have called me but I didn't respond? I am sorry to say I have no idea when that was or what happened, so I don't think that qualifies. Oh, I wasn't alert, you say. I wasn't listening, you say. I wasn't aware of your nudging my heart, you say. Well, no, I must admit I obviously wasn't alert at that moment - but try again, Lord, when you feel the time is right, and I will try to keep alert and watch out for the signs. Is that a deal? Great. Thanks Lord - I love the way you are patient with me.



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APPENDIX A

GOD GRANT TO ME A VISION NEW

(To the tune of 'God's Soldier', SATB 53)

1. God grant to me a vision new
Of what you're wanting me to do;
New understanding of the way
You plan for me from day to day.
Lord, by your Spirit help me see
The way of fruitful ministry,
Exciting possibilities,
God-given opportunities.

*We're going to fill, fill, fill the world with glory;
We're going to smile, smile, smile and not frown;
We're going to sing, sing, sing the gospel story;
We're going to turn the world upside down.*

2. Lord, I would know your life in mine,
Your resurrection power divine;
Your Spirit's strong life-giving breath
Ending the grasping hold of death.
I claim your Spirit's strength and grace
To meet the future face to face,
New lease of life when all seemed dead,
New strength to face the days ahead.

3. The future glows more brightly now,
I hear again God's gracious vow -
'I know the plans I have for you,
Plans that will prosper, not harm you'.
New purpose and direction planned,
Supported by God's guiding hand,
His hopeful future spurs me on,
To greater victories to be won!

Denise Brine and Harry Read