

## Visions and Voices:

Resources for Intergenerational Worship

June 17 Pentecost 4 Year B



**What this is:** Prayer



**Where it's used:** In any intergenerational gathering, Prayer, Confession



**Time:** 3 minutes



**Bible focus/theme:** 1 Sam 16, people missing from our community



**What's needed:**

- 8 body shapes roughly 30cm tall, cut or torn from packaging carton cardboard.
- Write one line from the prayer below on each 'person' and number it 1 to 8
- Hide the people around your gathering space.
- Blue yarn, cut into metre lengths.
- Art images by Chris Booth 'Anointing who?'



## Instructions

*Following the introduction invite those who would like to, to go looking for the cardboard shaped people who are 'missing', somewhere around your gathering space.*

*When they have found them, ask the 'Finder' to decide if they want to read the prayer or ask someone else to do it.*

*While they are deciding this, invite others who want to, to take some strands of blue wool, reminding your gathering that the blue wool has been your symbol for the voice of the Lord.*

*After each prayer has been read, the cardboard figures can be wrapped in blue wool, winding around and around the body, as a symbol affirming God's call to those who are missing.*

## Introduction

We heard in our Old Testament reading today how, as the prophet Samuel came to the town of Bethlehem to choose the new king, all of Jesse's sons were there, except the youngest - he was missing, left out, forgotten. He was missing from the gathering that celebrated God's goodness, from the ritual showing that God loves and accepts his people, from the feasting as Samuel sacrificed a calf and barbecued it up. Missing from the important decision making for God's people.

Today we bring our prayers thinking of those who are missing, those excluded and left out or forgotten. We will remember them in our prayers, knowing they are not forgotten by God.

To prepare for this, around our gathering space today are 8 cardboard people who have gone 'missing'.

If you would like to, now is the time to see if you can find them.

On each missing person is part of our prayer - there are numbers to help us order the prayers. If you find a missing person you can decide if you would like to read the part of the prayer on it in our prayers, or ask someone else to read. Choose that person now.

We will pray together with words, but we will also pray together in symbol. We have been using strands of blue wool as a symbol of the voice of the Lord through these weeks - as we've seen the blue swirls in the art images with our readings.

As we pray today you are invited to take some blue wool and wrap it around the cardboard 'missing people' to remind us all that God speaks, not to the people we notice or who seem important or seen, but God speaks and calls those who are missing and left out.

We'll bring all our missing people wound in blue wool to the front.

Let's pray together.

All join in the line '**we pray for those who are missing**' in blue.

Our *Finders* will read the sections on their missing people in italics

## Prayers

Leader: Loving God

**All: we pray for those who are missing**

*Finder 1: We pray for those who are missing out on basic living needs*

Leader: food and clean water, safe shelter and steady trustworthy community

**All: we pray for those who are missing**

*Finder 2: We pray for those who have been forgotten by our leaders*

Leader: left to struggle alone

**we pray for those who are missing**

*Finder 3: We pray for those who are missing from our workforce*

Leader: those denied work by our tardy border policies

those too unwell to work and dependent on others

those whose life work and skills are no longer called upon,

as the world changes and industries shift.

**We pray for those who are missing**

*Finder 4: We pray for those who are missing from our faith communities*

**Leader:** those absent from celebrations of your great love and life to the full

who have been hurt by churches  
or excluded from participating  
or simply not invited.

**We pray for those who are missing**

*Finder 5: We pray for those who are missing when we make decisions*

**We pray for those who are missing**

*Finder 6: We pray for those who are missing loved ones*

**Leader:** Those who have died or moved away or held in hospital or become estranged. We pray for the day when you will reconcile us all and no one will be missing.

**We pray for those who are missing**

*Finder 7: We pray for those who are missing from our history telling*

**Leader:** Those whose stories have not been honoured.

**We pray for those who are missing**

*Finder 8: We pray for all those who are missing from our life together*

**Leader:** Those left aside because of gender or age or occupation or faith or capacity or education or ethnicity.

**Thankyou** for the countless stories of scripture that show us your love for those who are missing, and your call to include and raise up those who are small and forgotten.

**Amen.**