

Blackpool Call to Worship

This was originally written for morning prayers in the quiet space at Baptist Assembly when we visited Blackpool. Blackpool has a certain reputation and images of night-clubs, fish and chips, casinos and stag nights leapt to mind. Several weeks earlier we visited Blackpool for the day to gather images, sounds, smells, and generally get a feel for the area to give us ideas that we could use to inform our worship. When we made the effort to get to know Blackpool we were surprised to find much to give thanks for and discovered many unexpected places where we found God. This could be used almost anywhere - you could make the first stanza into an acrostic using the name of your own city, town or village.

Come, gather from
Blackpool to Birmingham
Leicester to Lancaster
Aberystwyth to Arundel
Carlisle to Camden
Kendal to Kentish Town
Preston to Portsmouth
Oxford to Okehampton
Orpington to Oldham
Lowestoft to Liverpool

Come, gather
from supermarkets and schools
from care homes and call centres
from offices and industrial units
from homes and hospitals
from churches and communities

Come, gather
to meet new people and greet old friends
to learn from shared stories and experiences
to be challenged by hearing the Bible read anew
to celebrate and worship together
to pray for our world and be still

Come, gather
as we encounter the God of promise
made flesh among us.

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