

Open your eyes

2 Kings 6: 8 – 23

27th June 2021



Bowthorpe
Church

Welcome and notices

- Tuesday 29th June @ 10am: Church Council morning together.
- Tuesday 29th June @ 7.30pm: Prayer evening in the Ruin.
- Tuesday 20th July @ 10am: Hope Café meeting (rearranged – was 6 July).



Call to worship

Open my eyes that I may see
wonderful things in your law...Turn
my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your
word' (Psalm 119:18,37).





Open the eyes of my heart

Opening prayer and confession

God our Father, we have gathered together to turn to you as your people have gathered before. With Christians over the centuries and across the world, with all your people of all places and all times, we have come.



We come in hope and expectation that we shall find you here in this place and among your people, as the Scriptures are read and interpreted and as the music and words touch our spirits.

We bring everything that we are, all our gifts and talents, all that we do well and for good. We bring our weakness and our sorrow and every way in which we fail.



Lord, we turn to you and seek your forgiveness for all the ways in which we have denied your claim upon our lives and lived for ourselves rather than for you. Lord, forgive us and set us free to serve you wholeheartedly.



Assurance of pardon

The gospel is a gospel of reconciliation. Hear the Lord's word to you this morning - 'Your sins are forgiven.'

Thanks be to God. Amen.



Offertory prayer

Generous God, we bring our gifts to you with glad and joyful hearts. Give us wisdom in using all you have given us, that your gospel may be heard and seen; for your glory's sake. **Amen.**



Time of sharing



2 Kings 6: 8 -23

Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, “I will set up my camp in such and such a place.”



9 The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: “Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there.” 10 So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.



11 This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, “Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?”

12 “None of us, my lord the king,” said one of his officers, “but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom.”



13 “Go, find out where he is,” the king ordered, “so I can send men and capture him.” The report came back: “He is in Dothan.” 14 Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.



15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.



16 “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”



17 And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.



18 As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, “Strike this army with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.



19 Elisha told them, “This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for.” And he led them to Samaria.



20 After they entered the city, Elisha said, “Lord, open the eyes of these men so they can see.” Then the Lord opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria.



21 When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, “Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?”

22 “Do not kill them,” he answered.

“Would you kill those you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so



that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master.” 23 So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel’s territory.



This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



A person stands on a highly reflective surface, likely a salt flat, during a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and blues. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible, their peaks also reflecting in the water. The person's reflection is clearly visible in the calm water.

REFLECTION:

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2 KINGS 6: 8 - 23



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MIKE VOLP 1954 ~ 2015





Open our eyes, Lord



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Prayers of intercession

Lord in your goodness

Open our eyes to your ways



Everyone needs compassion

COMPASSION



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Closing prayer and blessing

Lord, open our eyes to all you are doing this week. Give us a vision of your glory that we may walk in your ways of truth and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

