

Called to Become

You are called to become
a perfect creation.
No one is called to become
who you are called to be.
It does not matter
how short or tall
or thickset or slow
you may be.

It does not matter
whether you sparkle with life
or are silent as a still pool,
whether you sing your song aloud
or weep alone in darkness.

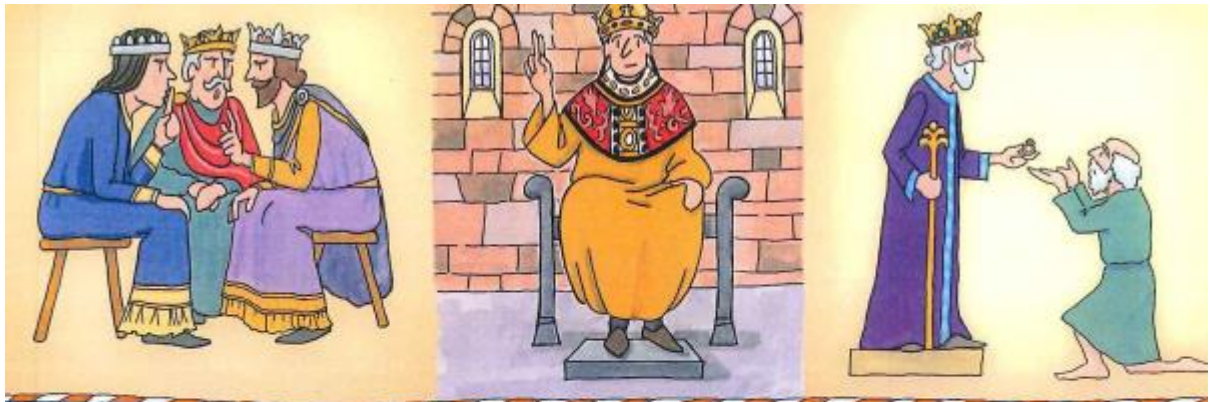
It does not matter
whether you feel loved and admired
or unloved and alone,
for you are called to become
a perfect creation.

No one's shadow
should cloud your becoming.
No one's light
should dispel your spark.
For God delights in you,
jealously looks upon you,
and encourages with gentle joy
every movement of the Spirit
within you.

Unique and loved you stand,
beautiful or stunted in your growth,
but never without hope and life.
For you are called to become
a perfect creation.

This becoming may be
gentle or harsh,
subtle or violent,
but it never ceases,
never pauses or hesitates,
only is -
creative force -
calling you.
Calling you to become
a perfect creation.

(By Edwina Gateley)



St Edward the Confessor at Westminster Abbey

King of England and True Patron Saint?

by Jane Hedges • illustrated by Alison Gardiner



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Christ
has no body on earth but ours,
no hands but ours,
no feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which his love
looks out to the world.
Ours are the feet by which he
goes about doing good.
Ours are the hands with which
he blesses people now.

St Teresa of Avila

Some Definite Service

God has created me
to do Him some definite service;
He has committed some work to me
which He has not committed to another.
I have my mission – I never may know it in this life,
but I shall be told it in the next.
Somehow, I am necessary for His purposes,
as necessary in my place as an Archangel in his –
if, indeed, I fail, He can raise another,
as He could make the stones children of Abraham.
Yet I have a part in this great work: I am a link in a chain, a
bond of connection between persons.
He has not created me for naught.
I shall do good, I shall do His work;
I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth
in my own place, while not intending it,
if I do but keep His commandments
and serve him in my calling.

Therefore, I will trust Him.
Whatever, where-ever I am, I can never be thrown away.
If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him;
in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him;
if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.
My sickness, or perplexity; or sorrow may be necessary causes
of some great end, which is quite beyond us.
He may prolong my life; He may shorten it;
He knows what He is about.
He may take away my friends,
He may throw me among strangers,
He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink,
hide the future from me –
still He knows what He is about.

John Henry Newman

I Am Special

I Am Special
In all the world there is nobody like me.
There has never ever been another
person like me.
Nobody has my smile.
Nobody has my voice.
I'm special.

In all of time
there has been no one who laughs like me.
No one who cries like me.
No one will ever look, talk, walk like me.
I'm special.

It is not by accident
that I am special.
God has made me special.
He has a job for me that
no one else can do.
All because I'm special.

A Reading from the Book of Samuel

The boy Samuel was serving the Lord by helping Eli the priest, who was by that time almost blind.

In those days, the Lord hardly ever spoke directly to people, and he did not appear to them in dreams very often.

But one night, Eli was lying down in his room.

His eyes were beginning to grow dim.

Samuel was sleeping on a mat near where the ark of God was.

They had not been asleep very long when the Lord called:

"Samuel! Samuel!"

He answered: "Here I am!" and running to Eli he said,

"Here I am, since you called me"

Eli said: "I did not call you. Go back and lie down."

So Samuel went back and lay down.

Again the LORD called

"Samuel! Samuel!"

He got up and went to Eli and said,

"Here I am, since you called me"

Eli replied "I did not call you. Go back and lie down."

As yet Samuel had no knowledge of the Lord.

Again the Lord called, the third time.

"Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel got up and went to Eli and said,

"Here I am, since you called me"

Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the child, and he said to Samuel,

"Go back and lie down and if someone calls say,

'Speak Lord your servant is listening'"

So Samuel went back and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by calling as he had done before,

"Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel answered.

"Speak Lord your servant is listening"

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

How can God use me?

Every one of us here today has been created with a purpose. God created us to glorify Him. To glorify God is to honour Him and point others to Him. It is impossible to truly glorify God when we are dead in our sins and walking in darkness. God sent Jesus to rescue us from the darkness of sin. Jesus the sinless, Son of God died on the cross for our sins. He was buried and the third day God raised Him from the dead. All who believe in Jesus have their sins forgiven and have eternal life. When you become a believer, **God uses you to share His plan of salvation with others in your life.**

Have a volunteer read **1 Peter 2:9** "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." If you are a believer the answer **to How can God use _____** (fill in the blank with your name) your answer is: **God can use _____ to declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.**

We will all be **called** by God to do a special job that He has planned for us. Some of us may already know our calling whereas it may take some people many years to work out what God's call is for them. This week's song will help us to think about the different ways in which we can be called

