

**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**Sunday, January 22, 2023, Jesus Calling the Disciples**

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday

Email [smiletoday9@proton.me](mailto:smiletoday9@proton.me) to get the Zoom link.

**Prelude**

**Opening Hymn: VU 567 Will You Come and Follow Me, vv. 1, 4, 5**

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,

will you let my name be known,

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found

to reshape the world around,

through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

5. Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go

where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

**Inviting Holy Light**

Another gathering to worship in the season of Epiphany – epiphany, meaning “revealing”. Let us together sit in the quiet of this moment, notice how you are feeling right now. Happy? Agitated? Stressed? Calm? Sit in the quiet beauty of this moment.

As we light this candle, may its warmth symbolize the love that radiates from our very being.

This candle represents the light of the soul. *[pause]*

It also represents the light of life, the light of Christ, that sparks us into a place of grace.

As we light this Christ candle, may its light be an inspiration for our worship this day, and remember that you are a beloved child of the Creator.

*[lights candle]*

**Sung Response: MV 137 Jesus You Are Welcome Here, vs. 4**

4. Welcome, Jesus, you are welcome;

let your loving light appear.

In our seeing, in our being,

Jesus, you are welcome here.

**Nurturing Safe Space**

We celebrate that all God's children, all Creation, is loved by our Creator. Here at St. Andrew's, we seek to be an open and welcoming community, inviting the full participation of people with many identities into life, worship and work. God's call to us is to celebrate the diversity of gender identity, sexual orientation, culture, age, race, disability, socio-economic status or previous faith or non-faith experience. We encourage each of us, you and me, all who come to join us, to ourselves.

## **Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

We at St. Andrew's offer our gratitude for the lands that we live and worship on lands that have sustained countless peoples from time immemorial to the present.

We gather as a people of faith seeking to find ways to live with justice and respect with all those who call these lands home. As Indigenous and Non-Indigenous brothers and sisters, we are called to honour the land, to live with respect in creation...to love and seek justice for all peoples. We particularly give thanks for the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek who cared for this land long before the Robinson Huron Treaty was made.

May we be guided by the principles of right relationship and reconciliation, healing our relationship with both the land and its original stewards, in our worship and work as St. Andrew's United Church.

## **Welcome and Announcements**

Torrin Maag will participate in worship leadership next week – Jan 29 – to talk about a vision of Young Adult Ministry. We will talk about what we need, physically, emotionally, spiritually, as followers of Jesus, as disciples.

Those at home, if you are new here, note that our contact information is at the end of the video, and you might want to visit our Facebook page, YouTube channel, or website, or email our office manager so you can receive our weekly e-newsletter. We also have a Social Hour on Zoom, every Sunday night at 7. As always, you can get your Zoom link to join that time of connecting by sending an email to Diane. That email address is also at the end of the video and is on our main YouTube page.

## **Call to Worship**

Come out of the shadows and into God's light!

**We will not hide, make a pilgrimage to God's heart.**

Lay down all which is a burden to you!

**We will give our fears to God,  
who is our help in every moment.**

Follow the One who will lead you to new life!

**We long to live in God's presence  
every day of our lives.**

## **Opening Prayer**

Holy God, source and creator of all life, as we gather this day to offer our worship, may we discover a faith like Andrew, the first-called apostle. Just as he experienced the fullness of your divine presence as he encountered Jesus, immediately proclaiming Jesus as Messiah, may we also be aware of your presence with us here today through your Holy Spirit, as we gather to "come and see."

We pray along with a newer version of the prayer that Jesus taught, the words are on the screen...

## **The Prayer that Jesus Taught**

**Eternal Spirit, source of all that is and ever shall be, Loving Parent in whom we discern heaven, may knowledge of your holiness inspire all peoples, and may your commonwealth of peace and freedom flourish on earth until all of humankind heed your call to justice and compassion. May we find the bread that we need for today, and for the hurts we cause one another May we be forgiven in the same measure that we forgive. In times of trial and temptation, help us to be strong; When life seems overwhelming, help us to endure; and thus from the yoke of sin deliver us. May you reign in the power of human love, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Hymn: MV 145 *Draw the Circle Wide, R, vs. 1, R***

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,  
draw the circle wide.

1. God the still-point of the circle,  
'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God's gracious arms.

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,  
draw the circle wide.

### **Time up Front**

*Dave talks about fishing and what is needed: tackle, bait, maps of waterways. Why do we fish?*

In our story today, we hear about two brothers who fished and then became disciples of God. They were then to fish for people. Strange image.

How did they do that? How might we fish for people and help people learn about God's love? (ex: do good things like helping another kid, or a teacher, helping a hurt animal or person, helping your teacher at school, working with another student, helping a friend who is hurt, caring for animals, or caring for the environment. (Think of examples that work for your context.)

Write what is offered on the cut-outs of the fish and ask children to place them in the fish net.

This is a repeat after me prayer:

God, help us to be good fishers of people,

Help us to take care of our world.

Help us to care for the fish,

For the lakes and oceans,

the air, and all your children that we meet.

Thank you, God. Amen.

### **Hymn: MV 145 *Draw the Circle Wide, vs. 3, R***

3. Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us,  
open every door.

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song,  
no one stands alone,  
standing side by side,  
draw the circle wide.

### **Scriptures (Marian McKnight)**

#### **First Reading – Isaiah 9:1-4 (New International Version)**

*This reading from Isaiah marks a hinge point in God's relationship with the people of Zebulun and Naphtali. Here the prophet speaks of the light of a new king, probably referring to a new prince born after 732 BCE, following a time of war. This king was to inaugurate a time of peace and justice.*

...there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future God will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan —

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

### **Second Reading – John 1:29-42 (NIV)**

*Jesus' first disciples are disciples of John. They are drawn to learn more about the one whom John calls "the Lamb of God." Jesus invites them to "come and see."*

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

Let us pray: Inviting God, you call us to follow, to witness and to wonder. You call us to follow and risk all we know so that the change we need can finally be seen. Amen.

### **Message: "A Big Vision: Deep Spirituality"**

#### **Choir Anthem: MV 161 *I Have Called You by Your Name***

1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true.  
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

2. I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name,

Speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

3. I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out,  
choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

4. I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

### **Minute for Mission**

#### **Sending People to School – Together: Patti Talbot's Work**

How do you make the world a better place? You can start by taking kids to school.

Around the world, 57 million children cannot attend school.<sup>1</sup> They may never learn to read, to add or subtract, or to write. These are the skills they need to succeed. Even more importantly, they never learn about their basic human rights.

It's a complicated problem, says Patti Talbot, the United Church's Global Partnership Team Leader. "The work we do isn't going to lead to immediate societal change," she says, "but it will make a big difference down the road."

When children can't go to school, society suffers. And that is why Mission & Service is in partnership with 85 organizations that work to increase access to education across the globe. Each partner has their own approach to education and skills training, each supported by your gifts to Mission & Service.

Colombia's Center for Communication uses arts and media to teach children about their rights. Women for Change in Zambia creates educational groups where participants share agricultural knowledge and awareness of their rights. At Japan's Asian Rural Institute, local leaders gather to learn sustainable agriculture techniques they can take home and transform their communities.

"How can we make the world a better place?" asks Talbot before responding, "We can't do that by ourselves; our partners know best what the challenges are... The United Church's focus is more than just sharing resources, but really sharing life together."

It's an approach that Talbot knows works, even if results take time. "Our partners are very grateful that the United Church of Canada has demonstrated over and over again that we are there for the long term," Talbot says. "Partners say to us 'It makes such a difference to us to know that the United Church is with us, walking with us in prayer, supporting us, remembering us in their lives.'" Thank you for your commitment to God's work that our United Church of Canada is part of, making a difference in solidarity with partners near and far.

1. United Nations, "[Education for All](https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/topics/education-for-all/)," un.org.

### **Offering Moment**

Thank you for sharing both your talents and treasures. Your donations will help St. Andrew's to partner with people who help the most vulnerable downtown. Giving to the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service allows us collectively to reach out to Ukraine and other places needing love and community. Thank you for all you do!!

### **Dedication Hymn: VU 506 *Take My Life and Let it Be, vv. 1, 5***

1. Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, all for thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

5. Take my love: and I will pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

### **Dedication Prayer**

We are called to follow, yet are often slow to respond, God of grace. We are blessed with more than we ever need or can use, yet we are reluctant to part with even a portion of this abundance. As we offer our gifts to you, remind us that learning generosity is part of our call to follow the One who models your gracious nature in every word, every gesture, every day. Amen.

### **Prayers of Community**

Holy God, our source of light and life, travel with us as we hold the questions. The questions that have been refined to name what we seek, what we need, and where we should go. Sometimes we wonder, are we worthy to be called by you?

Yet. Sometimes, the answers shake us. Sometimes, we are too afraid to admit truths about ourselves. Old wounds remain and sometimes hurt. We feel broken. We are uncertain. Fear haunts us. Lessons learned need to be learned again and again. Help us. Help us to know we are not alone.

Help us feel our way through the shadows, finding the gentle glow of the light. Help us to see the sacred glow of another's light. Help us know that sometimes the questions are the answers. and that by asking we are led to the home within our-selves where you dwell. Be our guide, our soft space and sturdy foundation. Be our north star leading us to each other, companions together along the journey of life.

We are aware of needs and struggles in our world – some small, some that are existential in scope. Some of our prayers might be for ourselves, or a neighbour or family member. Some prayers might be for strangers far away. Situations like the families living in fear in Ukraine, bereaved families after the plane crash in Nepal. People continuing to wait for news of the recovery of their loved ones' bodies after the explosion in Quebec 2 weeks ago. In silence we offer our own prayers of concern to our Creator in silence...

You create such beautiful spaces for healing, rest, and protection. We give thanks, and we rest in the hope that you will be with us now and in the years to come. Amen.

### **Closing Hymn: VU 563 *Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore***

1. Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore  
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
you only asked me to follow humbly.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,  
and while smiling, have spoken my name;  
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;  
by your side I will seek other seas.

2. You know so well my possessions;  
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
you will find there my nets and labour.



O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,  
and while smiling, have spoken my name;  
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;  
by your side I will seek other seas.

3. You need my hands, full of caring  
through my labours to give others rest,  
and constant love that keeps on loving.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,  
and while smiling, have spoken my name;  
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;  
by your side I will seek other seas.

## **Blessing**

Let us go now, beloved, to follow the love of God; to be surprised by God's wonder and to lift our voices for love and compassion.

May we dare to believe that we are people on a mission of healing and grace, our unique and diverse gifts that we bring important to God's vision.

May we feel God's encouragement to be a blessing as you offer blessings with your heart and hands and know that we never, ever go alone.

## **Blessing Hymn: MV 45 *You Are Holy***

1. You are holy, you show us the way. (*sing four times*)

### **Refrain (sing twice):**

You show us, you show us,  
you show us the way,  
you show us, you show us,  
you show us the way.

2. You are freedom, you show us the way. (*sing four times*)

### **Refrain (sing twice):**

You show us, you show us,  
you show us the way,  
you show us, you show us,  
you show us the way.

3. You are justice, you show us the way. (*sing four times*)

### **Refrain (sing twice):**

You show us, you show us,  
you show us the way,  
you show us, you show us,  
you show us the way.

## **Postlude**

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