

# St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to our "Virtual" Sunday Service. We have returned to "Virtual Only" services as the number of COVID cases is very high in our area and this seems the best way to encourage us all to "Stay at Home".

Today we see Jesus gathering his first five disciples. They come in response to either the call of Jesus to "follow me" or the invitation of someone they know to "come and see". Let us join together in wonder to worship God who reveals his Son to us, as Lord of all nations on earth.

Please join in with the words in **bold** print.

## Gathering

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

*All* and also with you.

## Hymn: I come with joy, a child of God (*sung by St Martin's Voices*)

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one.

## Confession

Our loving God knows and understands us better than we do ourselves. God sees our weaknesses and failures and is always ready to forgive us when we repent of our sins. So let us turn to God now in hope and faith.

Lord, you search us out and know us. You discern our thoughts from afar.

Lord have mercy      *All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, you trace our journeys and our resting places and are acquainted with all our ways.

Christ, have mercy.      *All* **Christ, have mercy.**

There is not a word on our lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

Lord have mercy      *All* **Lord, have mercy.**

## Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

## Collect

Eternal Lord,  
our beginning and our end:  
bring us with the whole creation  
to your glory, hidden through past ages  
and made known  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## **Reading: (1 Samuel 3:1-10)**

A reading from the First Book of Samuel

In those days, when the boy Samuel was serving the Lord under the direction of Eli, there were very few messages from the Lord, and visions from him were quite rare. One night Eli, who was now almost blind, was sleeping in his own room; Samuel was sleeping in the sanctuary, where the sacred Covenant Box was. Before dawn, while the lamp was still burning, the Lord called Samuel. He answered, "Yes, sir!" and ran to Eli and said, "You called me, and here I am."

But Eli answered, "I didn't call you; go back to bed." So Samuel went back to bed.

The Lord called Samuel again. The boy did not know that it was the Lord, because the Lord had never spoken to him before. So he got up, went to Eli, and said, "You called me, and here I am."

But Eli answered, "My son, I didn't call you; go back to bed."

The Lord called Samuel a third time; he got up, went to Eli, and said, "You called me, and here I am."

Then Eli realized that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, so he said to him, "Go back to bed; and if he calls you again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed.

The Lord came and stood there, and called as he had before, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak; your servant is listening."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 139**

**Lord, you have examined me and you know me.  
You know everything I do;  
from far away you understand all my thoughts.  
You see me, whether I am working or resting;  
you know all my actions.  
Even before I speak,  
you already know what I will say.  
You are all around me on every side;  
you protect me with your power.  
But even darkness is not dark for you,  
and the night is as bright as the day.  
Darkness and light are the same to you.  
You created every part of me;  
you put me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you because you are to be feared;  
all you do is strange and wonderful.  
I know it with all my heart.**

When my bones were being formed,  
carefully put together in my mother's womb,  
when I was growing there in secret,  
you knew that I was there—  
you saw me before I was born.  
The days allotted to me  
had all been recorded in your book,  
before any of them ever began.  
O God, how difficult I find your thoughts;  
how many of them there are!  
If I counted them, they would be more than the grains of sand.  
When I awake, I am still with you.

### Gospel: (John 1:43-51)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come with me!" (Philip was from Bethsaida, the town where Andrew and Peter lived.) Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one whom Moses wrote about in the book of the Law and whom the prophets also wrote about. He is Jesus son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

"Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," answered Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, he said about him, "Here is a real Israelite; there is nothing false in him!"

Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered, "I saw you when you were under the fig tree before Philip called you."

"Teacher," answered Nathanael, "you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Jesus said, "Do you believe just because I told you I saw you when you were under the fig tree? You will see much greater things than this!" <sup>51</sup> And he said to them, "I am telling you the truth: you will see heaven open and God's angels going up and coming down on the Son of Man."

This is the Gospel of the Lord      **Praise to you, O Christ**

### Talk

## Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles:  
this we have received, and this we believe.**

**Amen.**

## Intercessions

*Between the prayers we say*

Lord, in your mercy  
**All** hear our prayer.

*At the end of the prayers we say*

Merciful God, accept our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who  
sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Reflection Hymn (The Call – Richard Lloyd) (sung by St Martin's Voices)

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
such a way as gives us breath;  
such a truth as ends all strife;  
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
such a light as shows a feast;

such a feast as mends in length;  
such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
such a joy as none can move:  
such a love as none can part;  
such a heart as joys in love.

*George Herbert (1593-1633)*

### **Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

### **Closing Prayer**

God of glory,  
you nourish us with your Word  
who is the bread of life:  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that through us the light of your glory  
may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

### **Hymn – Will you come and follow me (sung by St Martin's Voices)**

- 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?**
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?**

**Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?**

- 3 Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
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 Lord, 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.**

*John L Bell (born 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)  
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### **Blessing and Dismissal**

May God the Father,  
who called you to follow his Son, our Lord Jesus,  
reveal to you through the Holy Spirit the fullness of God's majesty and glory.  
And as you walk in the footsteps of Jesus,  
may you know yourself to be loved, protected and redeemed.  
And the blessing of God almighty  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**All Amen.**

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

*Please join us for a ZOOM coffee and chat after the service.  
You will be invited to share your video and unmute your microphone.  
This is a great time to share news and information.*

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