

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL
28 JANUARY 2024

'Will you come and follow me?'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o469PRLdbHU>



WELCOME AND INTIMATIONS

GATHERING SONG: THIS IS THE DAY (x2)

1. This is the day - this is the day
That the Lord has made
That the Lord has made
We will rejoice we will rejoice
And be glad in it - and be glad in it
This is the day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day - this is the day
That the Lord has made

CCLI Song # 32754, Les Garrett © 1967, 1980 Universal Music -
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www.songsolutions.org)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As people gathered to hear the preacher on the boat, so we gather to hear again the call to discipleship. Like Simon Peter we acknowledge our faults. Like Simon Peter we cast aside our doubts. Like Simon Peter we are caught; caught by the love of God,

Leader: Called to push our boats out

All: we pray for smooth waters.

Leader: Called to cast our nets

All: we pray for a large catch.

Leader: Called to follow,

All: we follow in faith

OPENING SONG: Jesus calls us here to meet him

1. Jesus calls us to each other
Found in Him are no divides
Race and class and sex and language
Such are barriers He derides
Join the hand of friend and stranger
Join the hands of age and youth
Join the faithful and the doubter
In their common search for truth

2. Jesus calls us to His table
Rooted firm in time and space
Where the church in earth and heaven
Finds a common meeting place
Share the bread and wine His body
Share the love of which we sing
Share the feast for saints and sinners
Hosted by our Lord and King

CCLI Song 3356980, Graham Maule | John L. Bell© 1989 WGRG,
Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland, G2 3DH (Admin. by Wild Goose Resource
Group)

OPENING PRAYER

This side, or the other; here or there; now or then
May we follow you, wherever you call us; from
beach, to pavement; from shoreline, to town
centre, from sea, to land; at home, in school or at
our workplace.

May we follow you, wherever you call us; from the
past, into the future, from left to right, from where
we are, to where we will be. May we follow you,
wherever you call us

God of abundance and opportunity, you challenge
our preconceptions and our understanding: even
when we think we know it all, you have new
discoveries for us to make.

We come today to worship you and to affirm our
place in the great adventure to which you call us.
Like fishermen after a long, difficult night, we come
after a week that has left some of us exhausted,
some of us filled with affirmation, some of us
uncertain, some of us overjoyed, some of us
bewildered, but all of us ready to hear your Word
today.

As the world rocks below our feet, as what seemed certain is revealed for what it is — temporary and partial — may we grasp the net with you to capture what is lasting: your Way of Kingdom grace and love.

For your Way is the way that reveals life in all its fullness, and we give you thanks and praise for inviting us into your work in this world. We recognise today that too often we have been distracted by the world's desires, attracted by the baubles of consumerism, the lure of self-centred ways of living, the ease with which we forget our neighbours, finding idols to ease our discontentment.

Forgive us, abundantly, for only by your grace can we relinquish our grasp on what holds us back. May we step forward with Simon and Andrew to follow your call never looking back. In the name of Jesus, hear our prayer, Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BIBLE READINGS: Psalm 90:14-17; Luke 5:1-11

Song: Will you come and follow me?

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 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
Though My sight and touch and sound
In you and you in Me

4. 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

CCLI Song # 4668756, Graham Maule | John L. Bell,
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CHILDREN'S ADDRESS: LIFE SHAPE (SQUARE)

MESSAGE: 'Will you come and follow me?'

SONG/OFFERING (VIDEO)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmgzBrYw5Nk>

PRAYER FOR OFFERING

God of grace, in whose company we are made whole, we bless You for Your generous love. Holy Spirit, may You teach us how to pray, as we offer our thanksgivings, all that You have given us and who we are, in praise and service; for Your glory and in Jesus name, Amen

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

With "Be still and know that I am God"
(Rev Bill Taylor)

**Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.**

Gracious God, as the disciples brought others to Jesus that He might lay His hands upon their lives and bless them,

we offer our thoughts and prayers for people we bring to You now.

And, like the disciples, we bring ourselves as well. We come to You who is able to do so much more than we can imagine, we come to You because already, risen and ascended Jesus, before the throne of God You pray for us and for all whom we would bring to You.

Receive our prayers O Lord: some are for people we love, others are for people we find hard to love, some are for people who are happy, others are for people in pain, some are for people we know, others for people known by You. In quiet moments we pray.

Pause

I am the Lord who saves and heals.

I am the Lord who saves and heals.

I am the Lord who saves and heals.

Jesus, Saviour, we pray today for a world so often in turmoil, caught up in fear or war, injustice, the neglect of the vulnerable, and of creation.

Teach us how best to use the freedom we have been given to serve You and to make common cause with all who seek the wellbeing of others. We pray for people in positions of influence, remembering the Internet and other forms of mass communication.

May we have the wisdom to nurture what is good and guard against what is harmful. We pray for all who advance knowledge and extend the frontiers of science, thanking You for the many benefits we enjoy as a result. God only wise, may knowledge be used for good alone.

May we return often to the well-spring of wisdom, that we may share what You have given us to drink with a thirsty world.

In you, Lord God, I put my trust.

In you, Lord God, I put my trust.

In you, Lord God, I put my trust.

Saviour Jesus, Son of God, we discover in You that already life has overcome death, goodness has triumphed over evil, forgiveness has won the victory over sin, love has conquered hate.

In you we renew our faith and commitment to Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Glory be to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God, now and for always. Amen

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

SONG: BROKEN FOR ME, BROKEN FOR YOU –

VIDEO <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CKOvHDOdbY>



HOLY COMMUNION

(All) MODERN CREED

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

We Gather for Worship and Praise God

Come, all you who are loved by God,
Come, and be fed with the food
that He gives freely;
Come, and quench your thirst
from the Waters of Life;

Come, and let your spirits be filled again
with the goodness of your Creator.
Lord God, Giver of all good things,

**All: We hear Your invitation,
we see Your gifts of life and grace.
We have come, we have tasted and we know...
God, You are good. Amen.**

We are here for many different reasons. Whether we are brimming with faith, comfortably resting in a moderate pool of faith, clinging to that tiny speck of faith, or living with no sense of faith at all... We are here. But it doesn't matter why we're here... It doesn't matter how we're here... It only matters that we're here. You don't have to be "good enough" to come to this table... No one in this room is "good enough"...that's what this meal is all about.... Because of what Christ did for us over 2,000 years ago...

There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.... And nothing that keeps us from being invited to this table. Because here is a place where we are all welcome – where all who love the Lord came come and feast at His table.

Here is a place where there are no walls dividing us. Here is a place where Christ simply says, 'Take...Eat...Drink...and Remember... all of you! So let's gather...here...at this table... whoever we are and however we are... because Christ welcomes ALL of us... because we are ALL guests... and because we ALL need this food.

PRAYER

All: Holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory and all things belong to You. We thank You for giving us Your only Son even though we were not worthy of Your generosity. Pour Your refreshing Spirit on these elements and on us as we remember Christ in the way He commanded through these gifts of Your creation, Amen.

We remember the way that Jesus showed us His love: On the evening before He died, He had supper with His friends.

During the meal, He took the loaf of bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and then passed it around with these words: 'This is my body broken for you. Eat this and remember Me'.

And, after the meal He took the cup of wine, gave thanks for it and then passed it around with these words: '**This is my blood shed for you. Drink this and remember Me**'.

And now, every time we eat bread like this, and every time we drink wine like this, we remember Jesus, and His everlasting love.

INVITATION

Friends, draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

DISTRIBUTION

THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE BREAD OF HEAVEN

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, THE CUP OF SALVATION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Now come, all you who are loved by God. Hear His call to serve others as He has served you; hear His invitation to be part of His plan to rescue the world; Join the community of those who walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Lord God of World-Changing Love, we thank You for this meal, and for welcoming us to Your table. We remember that we are your children, and that You have called us to share Your love with everyone we meet. Help us to receive Your life, walk in Your strength, and follow Your ways every moment of our lives.

And now, may God's caring arms embrace us, Jesus' comforting words fill us, and the Holy Spirit's renewing Presence surround us today and always. Amen.

THE PEACE IS SHARED

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Let us share the peace.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CLOSING HYMN: CH4 198 – ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all
can safely live, a place where saints and children
tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and
dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where love is found in water,
wine and wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet. Here the love of
God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where all are named, their
songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built
of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and
songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor
to rafter.

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Text © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: TWO OAKS (see RW #219)

BENEDICTION AND AMEN (1 Thessalonians 5 21b-24)

**"Hold fast to what is good; abstain
from every form of evil. May the God
of peace sanctify you entirely; and
may your spirit and soul and body be
kept sound and blameless at the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The
one who calls you is faithful, and will
do this."**

And may the grace...



Click here for a fun, interactive way to teach our
young children

Come, Follow Me

Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3

