

Date January 17, 2021

Theme Calling the Disciples – Jesus, the true light

God's People Gather

Prelude

Prelude Pondering

We live in a world where bad stories are told, stories that teach us life doesn't mean anything and that humanity has no great purpose. It's a good calling, then, to speak a better story. How brightly a better story shines. How easily the world looks to it in wonder. How grateful we are to hear these stories, and how happy it makes us to repeat them.

— Donald Miller

A Million Miles in a Thousand Years: What I Learned While Editing My Life

Call to Worship

Leader: God knows us and loves us. Thanks be to God for such wondrous love!

People: We come with hearts overflowing!

Leader: The Spirit calls us to serve in the name of Jesus.

People: We come with a spirit of obedience.

Leader: Jesus has called us to this place. Come this day into the presence of God.

People: Here we are, Lord!

All: Let us worship God.

Opening Song

The Summons

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?

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?

Call to Confession

Jesus calls us to come and follow, to walk in his light. But we are not always ready to listen and obey. Our attention is captured by other bright lights. Still, he calls to us, and when we answer, he embraces us. Trusting in his grace, we confess our sins together.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that while we say the words, "Here I am, Lord," we are not really all that certain that we are ready to follow you. Perhaps someone long ago persuaded us that we are not good material for God to use in ministry. Perhaps we have not wanted to get personally involved. Perhaps we have thought that we had more important work to do. When we stubbornly refuse your claim on our lives, forgive us! Help us to see the gifts you have given us, and to gladly use them for your purposes. Help us to hear you calling us in the night, and to say, "Here I am, Lord! Speak, for your servant is listening." Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, hear the words of Jesus: You are the light of the world. ...No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. In Jesus Christ, you are called and claimed for God's work.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Response

Peace Song

Peace I leave with you my friends
Shalom my peace in all you do
Peace I leave with you my friends
I give to you so you can give to others too.

God's Word is Proclaimed

Children's Time

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-10

John 1: 43-51

Sermon

Responding to God's Word

Offering

If you are able, please continue to send in your offering and pledge. If you are enrolled in electronic funds transfer, there is no need to do anything different. If you would like to give online using Paypal, click this link: bit.ly/FPCsterling

Prayer of Dedication

O God, let these offerings be a light shining in the darkness, calling others to you. Let us be the voice of grace to help them hear your call. We offer these gifts, and we offer ourselves, for your purposes. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

God's People are Sent

Closing Song

Sent Out In Jesus' Name

Sent out in Jesus' name,

Our hands are ready no

To make the earth the place

In which the kingdom comes.

(repeat)

The angels cannot change

A world of hurt and pain

Into a world of love,

Of justice and of peace.

The task is ours to do,

to set it really free.

O help us to obey

And carry out your will.

Sent out in Jesus' name,

Our hands are ready no
To make the earth the place
In which the kingdom comes.
(repeat)

Benediction

Leader:....and let all God's people say...

People: Alleluia! Amen!