

Worship Service: Sunday January 22, 2017
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Theme: "Called by Christ to Spread the Gospel"

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*Call to Worship:

One: The Lord is our light and salvation.

Many: In God we find meaning and comfort and we need not be afraid.

One: Let God's people shout for joy, let us rejoice together.

Many: For Christ calls us and claims us as his own.

One: Come and worship in unity and love.

Many: For God has called us to sing of his Amazing love!

Hymn of Adoration: "Come let us sing!"

Bop # 412

*God's Greeting (*from 2 Corinthians 13:14*)

(Our Lord has called us to worship and now greets us.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

(As God has greeted us with his peace,
so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.

*The Sharing of the Peace (*We greet each other saying, "The Peace of Christ be with you"*)

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Prayer of Adoration and Confession: **"Just as I am" (verses 1-3)**

Bop # 682

God of light and of love,
by the waters you walk with us, inviting us into new adventures.
In the darkness you shine your light, guiding us in your path.

In the shadows of death you send your comfort to alleviate our fears and we know we are not alone.
You call us together to be your people and to offer you our praise.
So we come to give you the glory that is only due to you. We now offer our confession to you remembering your grace, your love and faithfulness.

Merciful God,

We confess that we often turn from who you call us to be.

You call us to follow your way of compassion but too often we turn to criticism.

You call us to follow your way of peace but too often we are the source of division. You call us to follow your way of trust but too often we take off on our own, leaving your call behind.

Forgive us, O God. Unite our will to your will, help us to cling to your way and strive for your love. Amen.

Assurance of God's Pardon:

Song: **"Just as I am" (verses 4-6)**

Bop #682

Youth message: **"You Have a Message"**

Youth Song: Fishers Of Men

I will make you fishers of men, Fishers of men fishers of men
I will make you fishers of men, If you follow Me
If you follow Me if you follow Me
I will make you fishers of men, If you follow Me

Hear Christ calling come unto Me, Come unto Me come unto Me
Hear Christ calling come unto Me, I will give you rest
I will give you rest I will give you rest
Hear Christ calling come unto Me, I will give you rest

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GOD SPEAKS TO US FROM HIS WORD

Prayer for Understanding

The Reading of Scripture:

Psalms 27

Matthew 4:12-23

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: **“Sharing that Joyful News”**

Text: Matthew 4: 11-22

Theme: “Sharing the Joyful news”

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

1. Jesus said follow me.

What does it mean to follow Jesus:

Jesus calls us to follow him in work and witness as many suffer hardships, sickness, pain and loss.

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. (Luke 9:23)

German Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer says in his book, "the cost of Discipleship, "When God calls us to ministry, he calls us to come and die.

Not a literal death but death here means sacrificing ourselves and everything we have for the sake of saving others.

2. He called them to fish for people

People was the object of their action

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

By: Daniel March

Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,

"Who will go and work today?

Fields are white and harvests waiting,

Who will bear the sheaves away?"

Loud and long the master calls you;

Rich reward he offers free.

Who will answer, gladly saying,

"Here am I. Send me, send me"?

If you cannot speak like angels,

If you cannot preach like Paul,

You can tell the love of Jesus;

You can say he died for all.

If you cannot rouse the wicked

With the judgment's dread alarms,

You can lead the little children

To the Savior's waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman,

Standing high on Zion's wall,

Pointing out the path to heaven,

Offering life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God demands;
You can be life faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.

Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying
And the master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly;
Let his work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when he calls you,
"Here am I. Send me, send me!"

Hymn of Response: **"We Have Heard the Joyful Sound"** Bop # 681

Prayers of God's People, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

WE BRING OUR GIFTS

Work and Witness of our Church

A Time of Giving

*Sung Response: **"Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow"** BoP#79

WE LEAVE WITH CHRIST'S PEACE

*The Benediction

*Recessional Hymn: **"Fight the good fight"** Bop #690