

## **Sunday Worship on January 25, 2026**

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Dr. Robert Revington PhD. )

### **We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to worship
- Praise song BOP 474 The love of God comes close (Vs. 1, 2, 5)
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 773 Jesus bids us shine (Vs. 1-3)
- Prayer for children

### **We listen**

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Isaiah 9:1-4
- Second reading: Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Matthew 4:12-23
- Sermon: **Come and see, follow and become**
- Praise song BOP 634 Will you come and follow me (Vs. 1, 2, 5)
- Prayer for people

### **We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (tune BOP 79 Praise God with songs that never cease) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 685 How firm a foundation (Vs. 1, 2, 5)

### **We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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### **Responsive Call to Worship**

The Lord is our light and salvation.

#### **We will not be afraid.**

Behold the beauty of the Lord!

#### **God will shelter us on any day of trouble and set us high upon a rock.**

Let God's people shout for joy!

#### **For Christ calls us and claims us as his own.**

Come and worship in unity and love; let us rejoice together!

### **Praise song – BOP 474 The love of God comes close (Vs. 1, 2, 5)**

### **Prayer of Adoration**

Gracious God, you are our light and our salvation,  
you are peace and you are grace, you are healing and you are love.  
You send comfort and courage to relieve our tears and fears

in the shadows of fear and doubt.

And you call us to lives of meaning and you call us to follow you  
in your ways of justice, truth and goodness.

We offer our praise in love and loyalty for you are always with us.

### **Prayer of confession (Unison)**

**Merciful God, you call us to follow your way of compassion, but too often we criticize each other. You call us to follow your way of peace, but too often we remain divided. You call us to trust you, but too often our fears and doubts overwhelm us. Forgive us, O God, and strengthen our commitment to follow your ways. Amen.**

**Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us:** (The Lord's Prayer:)  
**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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

God calls to us in love and forgiveness, and welcomes us in with a warm embrace. Hear the good news of the Gospel. Rejoice that in Christ we are forgiven, and be at peace with God, yourself and with each other.

**May the Peace of Christ be with you.** *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

### **Praise song BOP BOP 773 Jesus bids us shine (Vs. 1-3)**

### **Prayer for the children**

### **Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)**

- First reading: Isaiah 9:1-4
- Second reading: Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Matthew 4:12-23
- Sermon: **Come and see, follow and become**

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

### **Sermon: Come and see, follow and become**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, some journeys begin with a map.

Some begins with a plan. You sit down, you plan the route, you know the destination. Some journeys begin with a clear plan.

But our journey with Jesus does not begin with a map. It does not begin with a strategy. Our journey with Jesus begins with a voice.

By the Sea of Galilee, Jesus walks into an ordinary day.  
Not a holy day, not a special day. Just another working day.

Fishermen are cleaning their nets.  
They are tired. Their hands smell like fish.  
Their minds are probably already thinking about tomorrow's work.  
Life is busy, familiar, and predictable.

And then Jesus speaks to them, **v19, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."**  
In other words, "I will make you who you are meant to be."

That could mean,  
"I will make you a teacher."  
"I will make you a pastor."  
"I will make you a faithful parent."  
"I will make you a friend to the lonely."  
I will make you a quiet witness of grace."

Jesus does not say "Fix yourself first."  
He does not say, "Become better, and then come and follow me."  
Jesus does not say, "Once you are ready, I will call you."

Jesus simply said, "Follow me."

This is good news for us.  
Because most of the time, we are not ready. Most of the time, we feel incomplete.  
And yet, Jesus still calls.

Isaiah tells us that the people walked in darkness have seen a great light. That light is not an idea.  
That light is not a system. That light is not a program.

That light is a person.  
Jesus Christ has stepped into the shadows of ordinary life and said, "Come and see."

Psalms 27 gives us the courage to respond.

**Psalms 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"**

When we see his light, fear loosens its grip. When we trust his voice, hope begins to grow in us. Following Jesus always begins with trust.

**To follow Jesus is not to become religious. It is to become Christlike.**

That is the quiet miracle of discipleship.

We come and see Jesus.

We follow him, sometimes trembling, sometimes trusting.

And slowly, gently, over time, Jesus makes us more like himself.

Peter and Andrew were not heroes when they first met Jesus.

They were tired fishermen.

James and John were not ready leaders.

They were sons mending nets with their father.

Nothing about them looked impressive.

Nothing about them suggested greatness.

But **Jesus says, “I will make you...”**

Notice who is doing what?

Who is the subject of the action? I – Who is this I here? It is Jesus.

And what does he do? He MAKES.

Not, “You make yourself.”

Not, “You improve yourself.”

Not, “You transform yourself.”

Jesus makes. Jesus shapes. Jesus transforms.

This reminds me of a well-known Christian book, The Purpose Driven Life. It is a 40-day journey meant to reconnect our hearts with God’s heart. The very first sentence of that book is simple and shocking. **“It is not about you.”**

What does this mean? **“It’s about GOD.”**

Matthew 4 is telling us the same thing. Discipleship is not about self-improvement. It’s about surrender.

Many of us feel frustrated in our faith.

We want stronger faith. We want better prayers. We want to become better Christians.

And we try harder. And we feel tired.

But Jesus does not say, “Try harder.  
Jesus says, “Follow me.”  
“I will make you the person you are meant to be.”

So, what does Jesus make us into?  
Jesus makes us into people who love like him.  
Jesus makes us into people who forgives like him.  
Jesus makes us into people who listen like him.  
Jesus makes us into people who notice those others overlook.  
Jesus makes us into people who walk into the dark places carrying his light.

We do not become Christlike by trying harder. It’s not about us. It’s God’s work. **We become Christlike by staying closer to Jesus.**

One step behind him. One prayer at a time. One small act of obedience. One quiet moment of trust.

One of the church’s ancient prayers captures this theme beautifully. It’s called St. Patrick’s Breastplate. It’s not a prayer about trying harder. It’s a prayer about staying close to Jesus.

**Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me.**

This is what following Jesus looks like. Not running ahead of him, not dragging him behind us. But living every moment surrounded by the presence of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Precious people of God, to become faithful to his calling, we don’t have to build a bigger church. It would be nice, but God does not focus on our achievement. God focuses on how close we stay with Christ. It is our desire to become more like Jesus.

When we become Christlike, the light of Isaiah shines through us. The courage and confidence of Psalm 27 lives in us.

And the love of Christ reaches our neighbours through us.

So, today, hear the gentle voice of Jesus again, inviting you. **Come and see. Follow me. I will make you. I will guide you. And I will be with you.**

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

**Let us pray.**

Loving Jesus, we come to you just as we are. Tired, hopeful, uncertain, trusting.

Let us see you more clearly, follow you more faithfully, and become more like you each day. Shape our hearts with your love. Carry us with your grace and make us light in a dark world. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Praise song BOP 634 Will you come and follow me (Vs. 1, 2, 5)**

**Prayer for the people:**

Gracious God, our light and our salvation! We thank you for walking into our ordinary lives. You see every burden we carry. You know every fear we hide. You understand every hope we whisper.

For those who are weary, give rest. For those who are anxious, give peace. For those who are lonely, give companionship. For those who are grieving, give comfort.

Make us a Christlike people. Fill us with gentle spirit, help us be patient in love and faithful in service.

Bless our families, our children, and our elders.

Bless this neighbourhood and this city.

Let your light shine through St. Andrew's, so that many may come and see Jesus through us. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, we do not give because God needs our money. We give because following Jesus shapes our hearts. As he gives himself for us, we offer ourselves back to him in gratitude. Let us give, not with fear, but with joy, trusting that God will use even our small gifts to shine his light in this world. As we give our offerings, let us glorify God.

*(BOP #79, Praise God with songs)(words are on the screen)*

**Offering prayer:**

Gracious God, receive these gifts and the lives they represent. Use them to share your light, to love your people, and to make us more like Christ. For all that we are and all that we have belong to you. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. In your precious name, Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 685 How firm a foundation (Vs. 1, 2, 5)**

Now, it is our time to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

Friends, we leave this place not as perfect people, but as people being shaped by Jesus. The light has met us. The call has found us. Now we go to follow him, trusting that he is making us more and more like himself.

**Benediction:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always. Amen.