



'Ancient Galilee Boat' 1st century AD, found 1986, Yigal Allon Museum, 27'x7.5'.

17th January 2021 Second Sunday of Epiphany: Calling

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

O Lord, open our lips:

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.*

**Faithful One, Your Word is life:
come with saving power
to free our praise,
inspire our prayer
and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN 1

Follow, follow, I would Follow Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3tRGD7rmvM>

I have Decided to Follow Jesus (Elevation)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRb769P50IQ>

COLLECT

**Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen**



Baby at 20 weeks gestation, Lennart Nilsson

THE WORD OF GOD

St Paul says; The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. (1 Corinthians 4.20)

**Through our lives and by our prayers
may your kingdom come.**

Ps 139.1-5, 12-18, [or 1-9]

1 Lord, you have examined me and you know me.
2 You know everything I do;
from far away you understand all my thoughts.
3 You see me, whether I am working or resting;
you know all my actions.
4 Even before I speak,
you already know what I will say.
5 You are all around me on every side;
you protect me with your power.
6 Your knowledge of me is too deep;
it is beyond my understanding.
7 Where could I go to escape from you?
Where could I get away from your presence?
8 If I went up to heaven, you would be there;
if I lay down in the world of the dead, you would
be there.
9 If I flew away beyond the east
or lived in the farthest place in the west,
10 you would be there to lead me,
you would be there to help me.
11 I could ask the darkness to hide me
or the light around me to turn into night,
12 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.
13 You created every part of me;
you put me together in my mother's womb.
14 I praise you because you are to be feared;
all you do is strange and wonderful.
I know it with all my heart.
15 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—
16 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.
17 O God, how difficult I find your thoughts;
how many of them there are!
18 If I counted them, they would be more than the
grains of sand.
When I awake, I am still with you...

Read by David Suchet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5g90nzCygVA>

Anglican chant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tqb5n8i8fwk>

Phil Potter Lead Me On (watch from 3.08)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4y7faLrOVtY>

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK #1

[Click here for a short talk related to this psalm.](#)

This is my favourite psalm, but it packs a challenge to modern western values.

'You created every part of me; in my mother's womb you saw my destiny...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.' It has been the heartbreak of my life to have stood as a technician in a hospital operating theatre watching tiny bones being sucked broken into a glass jar. 'VTOP' they call it (vacuum aspiration termination of pregnancy)' but put together with this psalm it changed my values.

God knows us from before our own mothers know us, when we grew in secret. He has a destiny in mind for us in the flow of His beautiful created order. He understands us, He knows us; He put us together in our mother's womb.

Now, of course, modern biology has identified a huge amount of detail about how this process goes on physically, but it has nothing to say about the destiny of the particular individual the process begins to produce from the moment of conception, and tragically, it has opened the door to not valuing each life as a God-overseen wonder.

HYMN 2:

All To Jesus I surrender

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW8EA7DEQ2M>

Follow Me (Casting Crowns)

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



Jn 1.43-end Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43 The next day Jesus decided to go¹ to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him,

“Come with me!”

44 (Philip was from Bethsaida, the town where Andrew and Peter lived.)

45 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.”

46 “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” answered Philip.

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, he said about him,

“Here is a real Israelite; there is nothing false in him!”

48 Nathanael asked him,

“How do you know me?”

Jesus answered,

“I saw you when you were under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

49 “Teacher,” answered Nathanael,

“you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

50 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!”

51 And he said to them,

¹ from Bethany on the east bank of the River Jordan (Jn 1.28).

"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."



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK #2

[Click here to see a short talk on this passage.](#)

The story of the calling of Philip and Nathaniel carries on this theme of God knowing us before we know ourselves, or are known by others.

The account begins with Jesus' disarmingly simple, 'Come with me.'

This is the call to discipleship: going with Jesus wherever he goes.

We tend to limit where we'll go with Jesus with a million excuses: by being tied down with property, earth-based relationships, or responsibilities, or whatever else we can find.

I wonder how different the church would be were a few more of us to say to Jesu's simple invitation, "Come with Me:"

"OK!"

Philip's immediate response was to go to his friend Nathaniel (Many think he may be the same as the apostle bar- (which means 'son of', like 'Mac') Tholemai, i.e. Bartholemew.)

Philip shared that they thought they'd found The One the prophets wrote about, that is, the Messiah, The One who was to come to make a home for God in His people, an everlasting kingdom. It was Jesus, from Nazareth!

Nathaniel bar Tholemai employs a rather modern skepticism, possibly born of a rivalry between neighbouring villages, and from Nazareth's insignificance. An Everton supporter saying, can anything good come out of Anfield?

It's an excuse, but Philip ignores it, just asking his friend to "Come and see!" And he does!! It's still good advice.

"Come and see what God has done!"

They left everything to follow the one who knew them better than anyone ever could.

Lauren Daigle, Noel (Come and see)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Vwu-t7QRaE>
Miracle Maker clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poNuGusSX5c>

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

HYMN 3

Just As I Am

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8G0fAL8kDI>

I Will Follow, Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ohvhmGSfxI>

PRAYERS

The following form of prayer may be used:

*We pray for strength to follow Jesus.
Saviour, we hear your call.
Help us to follow.*

*Jesus said: Unless you change
and become humble like little children,
you can never enter the kingdom of heaven.
Saviour, we hear your call.*

***Help us to follow.**
We pray for the coming of God's kingdom.
Father, by your Spirit bring in your kingdom.
You sent your Son to bring good news to the poor,
sight to the blind, freedom to captives,
and salvation to your people:
anoint us with your Spirit;
rouse us to work in his name,
Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.*

*Send us to bring help to the poor
and freedom to the oppressed.
Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.
Send us to tell the world
the good news of your healing love.
Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.*

*Send us to those who mourn,
to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.
Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.
Send us to proclaim that the time is here
for you to save your people.
Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.*

*In faith we pray:
**That you will strengthen us in your service,
and fill our hearts with longing for your kingdom**
(Isaiah 61.1-3 & Luke 4.18-19)*

[Follow this link for intercessory prayers](#)

HYMN 4

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idAoS7at3nQ>
Christ is Enough
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teUxQpnhezY>

THE BLESSING

*Christ the Son of God perfect in us
the image of his glory
and gladden our hearts
with the good news of his kingdom;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.
Amen.*

Extras

No Turning Back
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_TGh9-iabM
The True Story behind the song "I have decided"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mLC2XAXKac>
The Story of the Galilee Boat
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nK8iNrx1qU>

