

Opening verse on screen:

"Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Luke 5:4

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship**Natalie**

Good morning, please find a seat, and prepare to worship.
Let's stand together as we welcome the word and light.

God makes us who we are, and loves us as we are:
Made in the image of God,
Called by Jesus to trust and follow,
With the strength and courage the Spirit provides.
Let us begin our worship by singing of God's welcome and love for us.

Gathering Song: Come as you, TiS 693

1. *'Come as you are: that's how I want you.
Come as you are; feel quite at home,
close to my heart, loved and forgiven.
Come as you are: why stand alone?'*
 2. *'No need to fear, love sets no limits;
no need to fear, love never ends;
don't run away shamed and disheartened,
rest in my love, trust me again.'*
 3. *'I came to call sinners, not just the righteous;
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?'*
 4. *'Come as you are; that's how I love you;
come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you;
all will be well, just come as you are.'*
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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect
the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation,
the traditional custodians of this land
since time immemorial.
We are learning that the land
is not ours to own, but to look after;
and that if we listen,
we may hear in it the calling of the eternal Spirit.
**Responding to this call, we commit ourselves
to work for justice, reconciliation,
and care of the earth.**

Welcome and Introduction

Natalie

Welcome to worship, both in person here in Brunswick and online wherever you are, and whenever you are watching. Welcome; we're glad you've joined us. My name is Natalie. This morning, we will be hearing the story of Jesus and the Miraculous Catch – his call to the disciples in their boat, and we will be celebrating communion together; all are welcome to receive, or to simply be part of the circle, both in person and online.

After the service, we are still having a pause from serving morning tea, but please stay to have a chat, either here in the worship space, or on the steps, or in the garden outside.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession incl Word of Grace

Natalie

Let us pray:

Holy God,
You created us,
Each of us, beautiful and whole,
With the birds, and animals, and plants,
All a part of your wondrous creation.
We thank you with our whole heart
For your steadfast love and faithfulness,
For hearing us when we call,
And strengthening us when we are afraid or broken.

Jesus Christ,
You step into our lives,
Challenging us to new ways of thinking,
Showing us where to cast our nets,
All a part of your continuing mission.
We thank you with our whole heart
For your message of hope for the world,
For hearing us when we call,
And strengthening us when we are afraid or broken.

Holy Spirit,
you give us eyes to see,
Ears to hear, and gifts to share,
All a part of your movement in the world.
We thank you with our whole heart
For your presence in and among us,
For hearing us when we call,
And strengthening us when we are afraid or broken.

God in Community, Holy in One,
We confess that we are not always at ease with your grace,
Neither loving you with all our heart,
Nor serving you with all our strength,
Blind to your vision of a renewed world,
And deaf to your call to costly discipleship,
We have been indifferent to suffering and unwilling to forgive one another,
In your mercy forgive and restore us,
That we may serve you with joy all the days of our lives.

Friends, sisters and brothers in Christ, Jesus came not to condemn, but to save. Through him we know that we are part of God's good creation. She will not reject the work of her hands, but loves us, and mends our brokenness, giving us strength and wholeness.

Hear the good news of Christ, Our sin is forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

With the children – part 1

Dave and Ian

Tennis match, using the fishing net as a tennis net. Chat about Ash Barty. One of her coaches was interviewed on ABC's The Drum. He helps with her mindset. Keeps saying to her that her self-worth is not based on whether she wins or loses, but on the love she has all around her. The loving relationships she has – with her team, her parents, the love she brings out on to the court.

When Ash is interviewed, she always talks about 'we, and us, and my team'. Never just about her. As Ash walks out on to the tennis court, she has a team of love with her.

As you are starting school, there's a team of love that goes with you through those school gates. God's love, parents love, grandparents, love of the church community. A great big net of love.

So, let's use this net now to get ready to listen to Jesus with a net – a fishing net.

Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11

Jamie

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

With the Children – part 2

Ian and Dave

Blessing the children for the school year – your self-worth is not based on your ATAR, or certificates of achievement, or number of friends, but on love – God's love first. So, let's sing this song of blessing for you, for the school year.

Song: Thuma mina, TiS 749

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1. *(Thuma mina) Thuma mina, Thuma mina, thuma mina Somandla.*
 - 1a. *(Send me, Lord) Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me Jesus; send me, Lord.*
 2. *(Lead me, Lord) Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me, Lord.*
 3. *(Fill me, Lord) Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus, fill me, Lord.*
 4. *(I will go, Lord) I will go, Lord; I will go, Lord: in your name, Lord I will go.*
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Psalm 138:

Lyn

Please join in the sung response during the reading of Psalm 138. Let's begin with the response now.

ATW 480 On the day I called (Bernadette Farrell) refrain only

*On the day I called you answered me, Lord;
you heard the cry of my heart.*

SONG: [On the day I called](#), © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, Oregon Catholic Press, from [All together whatever](#),
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Sung Response

I give you thanks, O God, with my whole heart;
Before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name
For your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
For you have exulted your name and your word above everything.
On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

Sung Response

All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O God,
For they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of God, for great is the glory of God.
For though God is high, God regards the lowly;
but the haughty, God perceives from far away.

Sung Response

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
You stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.
God will fulfil God's purpose for me;
your steadfast love, oh God, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Sung Response

Reflection: Being like Christ

Ian

Like so many other characters in the Bible, Peter, the number one disciple in the world, does not feel worthy to become a follower of Jesus. "Get away from me, Lord," he says in today's gospel reading, "for I am a sinful man! I don't belong with you, I can't follow you, because I am frail and imperfect and cannot rise to your level."

What about you? How do you go as a follower of Jesus, as one called to live your life along the way that he lived? – to imitate, model, embody the qualities of the divine presence? How Christlike are you?

Before you answer, let's consider the number 1 male tennis player in the world Novak Djokovic (continuing our tennis superstar theme this morning). Back while I was away on holiday, I was struck by a particular headline which I've been ruminating on since. The headline declared: "NOVAK IS LIKE JESUS SAYS FAMILY". So, I would like to reflect with you today on following

Jesus as modelled by Novak Djokovic. However, I don't want this to become a sarcastic pile on session where we just go through the long list of all the ways that Novak is not like Jesus. For example, it's become my view that Jesus would've been at the front of the vaccination queue because Christ's freedom is the freedom to love, and vaccination is one of the best ways to love our neighbours as ourselves right now. That aside, the Serbian Orthodox Church reads the same bible as us and it is clear from that bible that all of us who would follow Christ are called to be like him, to imitate him, even to embody him together – "you are the body of Christ and individually members of it," writes Paul, "you are Christ in the world" (1 Corinthians 12:27). And frankly, we manage that with mixed success, don't we? So, I'm prepared to cut our brother in Christ Novak Djokovic some slack today. None of us are perfectly Christlike, none of us are perfectly humble, perfectly loving, perfectly self-giving, none of us are perfect peacemakers, perfect reconcilers, perfect healers (Ash Barty maybe, but none of the rest of us). So, we're not looking for perfection today, Novak, but could you give us even just a glimpse of Jesus?

In case you thought the recent Djokovic vs Australia saga was a trivial political beat up to distract us from real news, something that was beneath your notice, here are the facts. Novak, at various times (and in no particular order), received an Australian medical exemption from COVID vaccination and later was denied an exemption. He had an Australian visa given, denied, cancelled, and uncanceled (the cancellation was quashed). Further, Novak was interrogated by our Border Force in a way that didn't stand up in court. He went through an immigration appeals process, a process that for at least one member of our congregation is ongoing after 5 years – Novak had to wait whole days for his ruling. Novak then became the subject of a ministerial order under the powers given to the immigration minister. And he was, of course, detained (twice) and ultimately deported. Which part of that was like Jesus?

"All of it!" says Novak's father, Srdjan, "They nailed Jesus to the cross," says Srdjan, "and did all sorts of things to him. He withstood, he endured. And he still lives among us. In the same way, they are also trying to crucify Novak."

OK, so Novak Djokovic is like Jesus because we crucified him. Let's test that assertion. Here is a quick summary of what happened to Jesus for the sake of comparison (from the Apostle's Creed): Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, he descended into hell, or he descended to the dead as we usually say these days – hell in the ancient cosmology of the creed is not a place of punishment, but the place to which the all the dead go to await the resurrection – the theological point being that Jesus' liberating work was for everyone, even those who had already died when he accomplished it – he descended to hell, and on the third day he rose again...

Did Novak suffer under Pontius Pilate? Was he unjustly and corruptly detained and interrogated by the authorities of the state? Did he have sentence passed upon him not by an independent judiciary but by a local governor? Yes, he did, just like Jesus. But unlike Jesus, didn't he deserve it?

Nobody deserves such treatment – not the first in the world, not the last in the world.

Was Novak crucified to death and buried, did he descend into hell? He didn't literally die, did he? (so what's the fuss?) – but he was made an involuntary guest in the Park Hotel – a place that surely represents Hell in Australia (one of the places). There in an extraordinarily ironic piece of political theatre, Novak was detained alongside the refugees whom Australia has been punishing as a deterrent to others for years (getting on towards a decade for some of them). And if Jesus is going to be anywhere in our world, he's surely going to be found in the Park Hotel. He told us as much in the gospels when he said, "Blessed are those who when I was hungry and thirsty, gave me food and drink; when I was a stranger, a refugee, welcomed me; when I was sick and in prison, visited me and took care of me. For just as you did it to one of the least members of my family, you did it to me." In other words, Jesus IS a detainee in the Park Hotel. And so, for the five days he was there, Christ's servant Novak Djokovic was

certainly like Jesus. More than that, Novak embodied the very presence of Christ there, doing God's work by revealing that moral atrocity, that blight on the Australian soul, to the world.

Now, he didn't do it on purpose, did he? He didn't set out to it. All he did was try to get away with travelling internationally while unvaccinated during a pandemic, and the next thing he knows he's in hell with Jesus. That's what being a follower of Christ is like. It sounds easy, "let down your nets for a catch, come and snare another grand slam title." Sounds easy. And Peter says, "I'm afraid, nothing's biting today, Jesus, but if that is all it takes to follow you, I'll do it. I am a fisherman after all, too easy." So, he tosses in the net and in the next instant he is being dragged down into hell, his boat is sinking into the deep under the weight of the fish in his net. "Get away from me, Lord!" he cries, "I don't want to be like you, I don't want to go where you go, into the hellish depths."

But that IS where Jesus goes, and if we would be his followers, if we would be like him carrying our crosses, embodying his presence in the world, we should not expect plain sailing or uneventful fishing or an easy straight sets victory. And also like Peter and Novak Djokovic we should not expect a barrier to Christlikeness from either our worthiness or our unworthiness, our strength or our frailty, our success or our failure. Jesus calls everyone: failed fishermen like Peter, world number one uber-wealthy superstar sportspeople like Novak, Jesus calls us all, promising not that we will all be successful, but that he will turn our lives upside down for the sake of the poor, for the renewal of creation, for the flowering of peace on earth.

Srdjan Djokovic said (and I still can't believe I'm actually giving the last word to Novak's father, but he did say the words of hope into the midst of that debacle from which no one emerged with their dignity intact) – he said, "They nailed Jesus to the cross and did all sorts of things to him. He withstood, he endured. And he still lives among us."

He lives. He lives in the Park Hotel. He lives in the hearts of those who feel unworthy. He lives to bring down the powerful and raise up the lowly.

How Christlike are feeling you right now? How is the Divine Lover of creation manifesting her world disturbing presence in you, in us, today?

Song: I danced in the morning / Lord of the Dance, TiS 242

I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; They came with me and the dance went on.

*1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun;
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem I had my birth:*

*Dance then, where ever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he;
and I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

*2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John,
they came with me and the dance went on:*

*3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
the holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and they left me there on a cross to die:*

4. *I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the dance and I still go on:*
5. *They cut me down and I leap up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you as you live in me:
I am the Lord of the dance, said he:*
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SONG: [Lord of the dance](#), by Sydney Carter, Stainer & Bell Ltd. London, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*; Reproduced with permission ONE LICENCE license # 604502. ALSO Reproduced with permission by CCLI license no. 247623

Prayers of the People

Ian

Repeat sung response from the Psalm

*On the day I called you answered me, Lord;
you heard the cry of my heart.*

Jesus as you called your disciples beside the sea, call your people here today, and help us to respond, to enter into your likeness.

May we follow you to bring:

- light to those in darkness
- faith to those who live unfulfilled
- calm strength to those beset by fear or distress
- peace to those at war or living under the threat of war
- encouragement and support to those recovering from disaster
- freedom and justice to those imprisoned or oppressed
- comfort to the grieving ones
- healing compassion to those who are ill or suffering diseases
- eternal life and holy love to those whose living is reaching its completion

Dear Jesus, call your people once more. Call us to life.

*On the day I called you answered me, Lord;
you heard the cry of my heart.*

Amen.

Holy Communion

Servers

Ian, Natalie, Dave, Shawn, Amelia, James

Introduction and Invitation

- One circle even if we are not receiving.
- Hands crossed on chest if you would prefer to leave your mask on and receive a blessing.
- Remain in your seats if you wish or are not able to stand
- All servers will hand sanitise
- Gluten free bread
- If you have an offering place it in the bowls by the font as you move into or out of the circle.

Thanksgiving

We are the body of Christ: ***His Spirit is with us.***

Lift up your hearts: ***We lift our hearts to God.***

Let us give thanks to God who is Wisdom and Love:

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Father of goodness, Mother of kindness,
for creation in its wonder and mystery

We thank you

for Jesus your beloved Son,
who calls us to follow,

We thank you

for the Holy Spirit your presence along the way,

We thank you

And with the whole realm of nature around us,
with earth, sea and sky,

we sing to you!

With all the saints before us and beside us,
with brothers and sisters,
east and west, north and south,

we sing to you!

And with our loved ones,
separate from us now,
who yet, in this mystery are close to us,

we sing the hymn of unending praise:

Holy, holy, holy (TIS764)

*Holy (Holy), holy, (holy)
holy Lord of power and might.
Heaven (Heaven), earth (earth)
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
All glory to your name.*

(All glory to your name.)

All glory to your name.

(All glory to your name.)

*Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

(Hosanna in the highest.)

Hosanna in the highest.

(Hosanna in the highest.)

Blessed is our brother Jesus,
who on the night of his betrayal took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and said:

This is my body given for you.

Whenever you eat it, remember me.

In the same way also, he took the cup.
Again he gave thanks,
shared it with his disciples and said:
***This is the cup of a new covenant in my blood.
whenever you drink it, remember me.***

Come now, Holy Spirit of the living God,
love us into the unity of peace
through this bread and wine. For:
***Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!***

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ
all glory be to you,
Source of all Being,
Eternal Wisdom and Holy Spirit,
one God and Mother of all creation.
Amen.

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 for ever. Amen.***

Breaking of the bread
Christ is the bread of resurrection:
new life for all.

Christ is the cup of life:
who revives the faint-hearted.

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Let us receive what we are.
Let us become what we receive:
The body of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Distribution
Communion served in one circle

The Peace
The peace of Christ be with you all:
And also with you

Share the peace, return to your seats

Sending Song: We will love, NCYC '93

*We will walk with you at the edges
 We will die with you on the cross roads,
 We will live in your dangerous places,
 We will love.
 We will risk with you taking chances
 We will stand with you facing evil
 We will live in your dangerous places
 We will love.*

1. *Come Lord Jesus Christ hear our prayer
 Come now living friend please draw near
 Alone we feel unsure and so afraid
 Calling us to live by your grace
 Calling us to leave all that's safe
 Our lives we choose to lose so you may save. Chorus*
2. *Stepping out we call on your name
 Knowing you have healed all our shame
 Our God your precious love has made us whole
 gifting us with power to set free
 Holy Spirit use even me.
 Renew all that I am so I may see. Chorus*

We will love (x3)

SONG: We will love, by Graeme Gardiner, from NCYC Songbook '93 Love in a dangerous time,
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Blessing and Sending

Ian

Go in peace to answer the call of Christ in the world.

And may the blessing of God be yours;
 the blessing of the beloved Son be yours;
 the blessing of the Sacred Spirit be yours;
 the blessing of the Three
 be poured out upon you
 serenely and generously,
 now and forever. Amen.

Thank you

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to...

Liturgist:

Natalie Sims

Bible readers:

Jamie Thom

Lyn Anderson

Children's time:

Dave Hall

(Children, Youth
& Young Adult Pastor)

Reflection and

Prayers of the People:

Ian Ferguson

(Minister of the Word)

Musicians:

Alistair Hunter
(co-ordinator)

Daniel Broadstock

Joel Hallinan

Bronte Potter

Maggie Somerville

Bridie Turner

Joanne van Ravenswaaij

Editing / Production:

Ray Cameron

Saide Cameron

Ben Hon

Alistair Hunter

Lauren Reader

Postlude Song:

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Dave Brown

Hannah Denison

Shawn Whelan

Images:

Ray Cameron

Ian Ferguson

Closing verse on screen:

"Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Luke 5:4