

Order of Service – 22/01/2023, Epiphany 3 A

Opening verse:

Do not be afraid, I am with you; I have called you by your name, you are mine.

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Ian

Good morning friends good morning let's prepare to worship God together. I invite you to find a seat, to relax, to ground yourself in this place, to breathe deep, to breathe deep into knowing ourselves as one body breathing, one breath together, the living Breath of God, Spirit of Life and love and hope and joy and freedom in our midst.

I light this candle as a sign of the Spirit's presence today, uniting us as one body in Christ Jesus. Do not be afraid I am with you says our God let's stay seated and sing together.

Do not be afraid, I am with you (TIS16 – refrain only)

*Do not be afraid, I am with you;
I have called you by your name,
you are mine;
I have called you by your name,
you are mine.*

SONG: [Do not be afraid](#), Oregon Catholic Press, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*;
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Acknowledgement of Country

Ian

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.**

Gathering Song

TiS 589 *Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult*

*1 Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his voice is sounding,
saying "Christian, follow me!"*

*2 As the first disciples heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.*

3 *Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying "Christian, love me more."*

4 *In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."*

5 *Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call;
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.*

By Cecil Frances Alexander (1852). Public Domain.

Welcome and Introduction

Ian

Welcome to those of you who are here in this room. Welcome you to those of you who are joining us through the live stream wherever and whenever you're tuning in welcome. Welcome in the name of the Living God who calls us, who unites us who inspires us. May we listen for God speaking in our hearts today.

We'll be hearing the gospel story of the fisherman being called by Jesus today and so we gather here by the sea with lots of flowers from our flower arranging workshop yesterday. Thanks to those who participated and for the wonders that we're sharing here now.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Ian

We gather by this net. Today Jesus says, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people"

This is the net of the gospel spread to encompass the life of the world and draw it into loving communion with God.

Caught in it are:

Image 1: Green leaf – representing the eternal source of all life

Image 2: Feather – representing spirit breath of wisdom, healing, compassion, communion, that which inspires and unites with God

Image 3: Cross – representing the story of Jesus, death and resurrection, reconciling passion, justice and peace, the way we are called to follow, eternal life with God

Let us pray:

Image 1 – leaves

Focus on heartbeat

Our hearts overflow with praise
for you, Eternal One.
Like a leaf unfurls rich and green,
drawing sustenance from earth
and life from the sun,
so we grow to wholeness in you.

Image 2 – feather

Focus on breath

Our hearts overflow with praise
for you, Holy Spirit of the living God.
Light as air,
refreshing as the breathy breeze
from the southern seas,
insistent and disturbing
as the wind that blows
from the deserts of the north,
so you renew and unsettle us.

Image 3 – cross

Focus on the life in your whole body

Our hearts overflow with praise
for you Jesus Christ, risen Son.
Like the gentle dawn
you radiate new life,
like the midday sun
you blaze out with transforming passion,
like the setting sun
you reveal the beauty of reconciling love.

Sacred Three in blessed unity, we praise you.

And now having offered our praise for who our God is, let us uphold before God the fullness and truth of our being, the life of humanity in all its wonder and frailty.

Silence

This is who we are, Holy One,
body, breath and heartbeat,
creatures of love
who so often fall short in our loving.
By your grace shine the light of your risen Son
and breathe the breath of your living Spirit,
to bring forth the growth of eternal life
in us and all creation.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

God's reign is near.
Hear the word of renewing grace:
Your sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 4:12-23

Peter

Gospel reading incorporates OT reading

Jesus calls his first disciples

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 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 fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 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. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

With the Children

Ian

Song

Iona (HSNW) *Sing hey for the carpenter*

1. *Come with me, come wander, come welcome the world
Where strangers might smile or where stones may be hurled.
Come leave what you cling to, lay down what you clutch,
And find with hands empty that hearts can hold much.*

*Sing hey for the carpenter leaving his tools!
Sing hey for the Pharisees leaving their rules!
Sing hey for the fishermen leaving their nets!
Sing hey for the people who leave their regrets!*

2. *Come walk in my company, come sleep by my side,
Come savour a lifetime with nothing to hide.
Come sit at my table and eat with my friends,
Discov'ring that love which the world never ends.*

3. *Come share in my laughter, come close to my fears,
Come find yourself washed with the kiss of my tears.
Come stand close at hand while I suffer and die,
And find in three days how I never will lie.*

4. *Come leave your possessions, come share out your treasure,
Come give and receive without method or measure.
Come loose ev'ry bond that's resisting the Spirit,
Enabling the earth to be yours to inherit.*

SONG: [Sing hey for the carpenter](#), from [Heaven shall not wait](#) © Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

Claire

Sung Response: *Do not be afraid, I am with you* (TIS16 – refrain only)

*Do not be afraid, I am with you;
I have called you by your name,
you are mine;*

*I have called you by your name,
you are mine.*

SONG: Do not be afraid, Oregon Catholic Press, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious; Reproduced with permission under license # 604502, Licensing - copyright Cleared Music for Churches

God is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
God is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

*Do not be afraid, I am with you;
I have called you by your name,
you are mine;
I have called you by your name,
you are mine.*

There is one thing I ask of the Holy One,
for this I long:
to live in the house of my God
all the days of my life.

*Do not be afraid, I am with you;
I have called you by your name,
you are mine;
I have called you by your name,
you are mine.*

I am sure I shall see God's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in God, hold firm and take heart,
hope in the Holy One.

*Do not be afraid, I am with you;
I have called you by your name,
you are mine;
I have called you by your name,
you are mine.*

For these Words of Witness and for Christ the Word
Thanks be God

Reflection

Ian

Offering with Song

Ian

SONG: I have decided to follow Jesus

*I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.*

*Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.*

*The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back.*

SONG: [I have decided to follow Jesus](#), S. Sundhar Singh (1889-1929), Public Domain

Offering Prayer

Let's bring our offerings forward. We offer our gifts to God.
We offer our lives to God in response to the call of Christ,
that call comes to each of us differently.
What are you hearing today?
Receive and bless the gifts that we bring Living God,
the gifts of Our Lives receive and bless us
and help us to enter fully into the calling that you have for us
Amen

Prayers of the People

Jim

Loving God of strong summer winds
We pray for the World.
We pray for a world that needs inspiration. We pray for humble people in tough parts of Ukraine,
in tough parts of Australia: may they feel heard.
In your mercy, hear our prayers.
We sit up, we breathe in warm Summer air.
We cast our net out to others. We feel their weight. We feel inspired.

We pray for the Church.
May the Uniting Church remember the dove with wings of flame. May we feel the strength of the
symbols. May we convert ideas into action, this year.
In your mercy, hear our prayers.
We sit up, we breathe in warm Summer air.
We cast our net out to others. We feel their weight. We feel inspired.

We pray for those in need. We take a deep breath and prepare for a new year. May we find the
strength for it. May we see the point of it. May we reach out to others. May we draw strength
from and give strength to, others.

In your mercy, hear our prayers.
We sit up, we breathe in warm Summer air.
We cast our net out to others. We feel their weight. We feel inspired.

In the name of Christ calling us.
Praise,
Amen.

Notices

Ian

Sending Song

We will walk with God – Sizohamba (Iona – One is the Body 134)

*Sizohamba naye,
wo wo wo,
sizohamba naye.
Ngomhla wenjabula,
sizohamba naye.*

*We will walk with God, my brothers,
we will walk with God.
We will walk with God, my sisters,
we will walk with God.
we will go rejoicing, till the kingdom has come.*

SONG: We will walk with God, Swaziland Traditional, translation by John L Bell, © 2002 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland, from One is the Body. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE #604502

Blessing and Sending

Ian

Go now to walk with God, following Jesus on the way of life.

Go to love one another as you have been loved.

And go with the blessing of God,
Source, the Word and the Breath
of all love and life.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Thank yous

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

Liturgist, Children's Time &
Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Bible readers:
Claire Foley
Peter Williams

Prayers of the People:
Jim Kilpatrick

Musicians:
Matthew Lees
(co-ordinator)
Helen Burnham
Andrew Dickinson
Alistair Hunter
Nicole Lowe
Clementine Loynd

Editing / Production:
Jane Allardice
Hugh Brown
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Alistair Hunter
Dave Miller

Postlude Song: Sing hey
for the carpenter, from
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Scotland. Reproduced
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LICENCE # 604502
Musicians: Alistair Hunter,
James Balsillie, Courtney
Rohde

Images:
Ian Ferguson
Unsplash

Closing verse:

Do not be afraid, I am with you; I have called you by your name, you are mine.