

**Worship at Home service Sunday 9th
February 2025 with Revd Ian Forsyth**

A call to worship:

Our God is holy, our God is mighty. We gather in his house in awe at his presence. Let us still our hearts and prepare to meet the Lord of heaven and earth. **Amen.**

A gathering prayer

Holy God, we gather to worship you in all of your glory. Fill this place with your Holy Spirit and help us to see more of who you really are. Come, meet us and prepare us to do your will. **Amen.**

StF 495 Dear Lord and Father

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqOnjmr9Ah0>

Bible readings Psalm 138, Luke 5 v 1 - 11

Reflection:

This account in Luke's gospel is an invitation to follow Jesus today. The majority of the first disciples were fishermen, who dedicated themselves to work together as a team, often through difficult conditions.

There are three thoughts for us to ponder today, from Luke's account of Jesus calling the disciples.

In verses 1 – 3 Jesus is on the shore beside the sea of Galilee and chooses not only a boat but fisherman who catch fish. He changes their world upside down inviting them to follow Jesus and to fish for people on land and offer them the good news of being a disciple of Jesus.

In verses 4 – 8 Jesus stops speaking to the crowds around him and gets Peter to go out in the boat. Peter had been out all night working hard and yet he caught no fish. Jesus chooses Peter to go out from the shoreline and sits in the boat and talks to the crowds in a small inlet. It was like an amphitheatre which would help all those on the seashore listening to his words. When Jesus had finished speaking, he asks Peter to go out further into deeper water where he catches so many fish in the nets, he has to signal to the other fishermen to help land them in two boats.

This reminds me of verses in the Bible that encourage us when we are weary and tired and when we do not see a way forward. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus says "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

In verses 9 – 11 Everyone who was on the shore listening to Jesus and the fisherman were astonished at what they saw. The boat was so loaded by fish that it nearly capsized. The first fishermen Jesus called, got their boats to shore and left their fishing nets, to follow Jesus. Following the resurrection of Jesus, the fishermen who failed to catch fish earlier on the same lake, were later to change the world.

Just recently in the Northampton Methodist Church we have been looking at a course entitled Holy Habits. In the Disciple making resource booklet, we are encouraged to learn a Bible verse and to close with prayer to conclude the first Holy Habit 'Making more Disciples.'

I want to end this Worship at Home with a moment to memorise the Bible verse and conclude with a prayer suggested to end this Holy Habit session.

Our final memory verse and prayer below to end this reflection.

Matthew 28 v 19 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'.

A closing prayer

Thank you, God, that each of us is invited to follow Jesus. Thank you that Jesus came here for us. Thank you that each of us can follow him. Help us to be brave and excited about telling our friends about Jesus. **Amen**

Finally in the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer who wrote from prison saying 'When Christ calls a person, he tells them to come and die. I am reminded of the words of Paul in a letter to the Galatians where he says I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. May we be followers of Christ moving from our past failures to being successful.

We will finish this reflection with the invitation and challenge facing us all when Jesus calls, he does demand everything, but only because he has given everything himself, and his plans for us and the world, that we would never have dreamed of.

A prayer of adoration

Blessings abound when you call us, Lord: when we encounter you in expected and unexpected places, when you speak to our need, are balm to our woes, are a guide in our confusion, an anchor in our uncertainty, a challenge in our complacency and love beyond measure. How can we not live in awe of all you are, have been and will be? **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Our holy God has heard our confession, felt our pain, knows our desires, has forgiven us, renewed us, freed us, refreshed us.

Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Prayer of forgiveness

Holy God, we know that on our own we fail and fall, falter and stumble, but we know that with you we can be better. You call us to be the best we can be, and we know we have failed. We confess those failings and seek your forgiveness (*silence*). **Amen**

A prayer of praise

Praise the Lord's glorious name. Praise the Lord for glory and power. Praise the Lord for his voice heard above the storms of life. Praise the Lord for strength in our weakness. Praise the Lord who blesses us with peace. Praise the Lord whose Spirit is poured out for us. Praise the Lord whose Spirit is kindled within our hearts. Praise the Lord whose love everlasting is forever our comfort. Praise the Lord whose very being has transformed us. Praise the Lord who walks each step of life with us. Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord! **Amen.**

StF 287 When I survey the wondrous cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRfchP0SLU>

A sending out prayer:

Almighty God, you have given us a fresh glimpse of your glory and majesty. We are not worthy to walk with you, but you have made us clean. Send us out, in the power of your Holy Spirit, to speak your words and to show your love. **Amen.**