

Cooma Anglican 4 May 2025 - 1st Order APBA

Welcome

Hymn TIS 226 - Thou art the Way: to Thee alone

**Thou art the Way: to Thee alone
From sin and death we flee;
And he who would the Father seek,
Must seek Him, Lord, by Thee.**

**Thou art the Truth: Thy word alone
True wisdom can impart;
Thou only canst instruct the mind,
And purify the heart.**

**Thou art the Life: the rending tomb
Proclaims Thy conq'ring arm;
And those who put their trust in Thee
Nor death nor hell shall harm.**

**Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life;
Grant us that Way to know,
That Truth to keep, that Life to win,
Whose joys eternal flow.**

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Sentence of the Day

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. John 1:42-43

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Lord, have mercy on us, and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit

Prayer of the Day

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, so that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God, the Source of all life. **Amen**

The Ministry of the Word

Isaiah 6:1-10

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" 9 He said, "Go and tell this people: "'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.'" 10 Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

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

Psalms 32:1-11

¹ Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
² **Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.**
³ When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**
⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.
⁶ **Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.**
⁷ You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

⁹ Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

¹⁰ Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.

¹¹ Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Acts 8:34-39

34 The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" 35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" [37] 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

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

John 1:35-51

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote —Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶ “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

⁴⁸ “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰ Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹ He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

This is the gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Sermon John 1:35-51 - The Call to Follow Jesus

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose from the dead, he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Offering

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God forever.**

Prayers

Let us pray for the world and the church.

Response: Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

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.

Exhortation

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we who would come to the holy communion of the body and blood of our Saviour Christ must consider how St Paul exhorts us to examine ourselves before presuming to eat of that bread and drink of that cup.

For the benefit is great, if with a penitent heart and lively faith we receive that holy sacrament. We then spiritually eat the flesh of Christ and drink his blood; we dwell in Christ and he in us; we are one with Christ and Christ with us.

Yet also the danger is great if we receive the bread and cup unworthily. Judge yourselves therefore, that you be not judged of the Lord. Repent truly of your sins, having a steadfast faith in Christ our Saviour. Amend your lives and love your neighbour.

Above all, give hearty thanks to God for the redemption of the world by the death and passion of our Saviour Christ, truly God and truly human, who humbled himself to death on the cross for us sinners, that he might make us children of God, and raise us to eternal life.

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to strengthen and comfort you. But first, let us make a humble confession of our sins to almighty God.

Confession

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge with shame the sins we have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us.

We earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for all our misdoings. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake forgive us all that

is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the words of assurance for those who truly turn to Christ: If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the perfect offering for our sins. 1 John 2:1-2

Hymn TIS 254 O changeless Christ for ever new

O changeless Christ for ever new

Who walked our earthly ways

Still draw our hearts as once you drew

The hearts of other days

As once you spoke by plain and hill

Or taught by shore and sea

So be today our teacher still

O Christ of Galilee

As wind and storm their Master heard

And His command fulfilled

May troubled hearts receive your word

The tempest-tossed be stilled

And as of old to all who prayed

Your healing hand was shown

So be your touch upon us laid

Unseen but not unknown

In broken bread in wine outpoured

Your new and living way

Proclaim to us O risen Lord

O Christ of this our day

O changeless Christ till life is past

Your blessing still be given

Then bring us home to taste at last

The timeless joys of heaven

The Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, Mighty Creator and Eternal God. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Glory to you, O Lord most high.

Prayer of Approach

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

All glory to you, our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death on the cross for our redemption: who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we who receive these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' Likewise after supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, 'Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' Amen.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts with thanksgiving.

After Communion

Almighty and everliving God, we heartily thank you that you graciously feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious

body and blood of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and thus assure us of your favour and goodness towards us and that we are true members of the mystical body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful people, and are also heirs, through hope, of your eternal kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of your dear Son. And we humbly beseech you, heavenly Father, so to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as you have prepared for us to walk in, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, world without end.

Hymn TIS 590 What a friend we have in Jesus

**What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer
O what peace we often forfeit O what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer**

**Have we trials and temptations, Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share
Jesus knows our every weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer**

**Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care
Precious Savior still our refuge, Take it to the Lord in prayer
Do thy friends despise forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there**

Notices

Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Sermon - The Call to Follow Jesus - John 1:35-51

What makes people follow Jesus? What made you follow Jesus at the start of your Christian life?

Our gospel reading this morning talks about how four different disciples came to follow Jesus: Andrew, Philip, Nathanael and another disciple whom John doesn't name, but was possibly John, the author of the gospel himself. All of these disciples end up following Jesus, and play a major part in the early Church, but today I want to look at the start of the process - or more specifically, what started the process. That is why I want you to think about why you started following Jesus.

The two disciples - Andrew and the Other One

The first two people that get called to follow Jesus are obviously looking for something already - they were disciples/followers of John the Baptist, and they actually left following John to follow Jesus instead. However, I doubt if John was at all upset about losing the disciples. It was not that they were high maintenance disciples, or at least that we know of, but we do know that John pointed them in Jesus' direction.

As we heard last week, John the Baptist was a religious teacher who was preaching that people should turn away from their sins in order to be prepared for the coming Kingdom of God. As he was preaching this, and was baptising, or washing the people who listened in the local river to symbolise that they were washed from sin. As he was doing this he told two of his own followers: pointing them towards Jesus as he was passing by, and said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" As I mentioned last week, in the Old Testament, lambs were sacrificed in the temple, so by calling Jesus the Lamb of God, he was basically saying that Jesus would take away our sins in the same way that lambs took away sins in the Old Testament, by taking the punishment that sinners deserve - effectively dying in our place.

As soon as John the Baptist had pointed Jesus out, Andrew and the other disciple moved on from being disciples of John to being disciples of Jesus. They chased down the road, and asked him "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" - This might seem a little personal, a little (or perhaps a lot, intrusive, but that was how discipleship worked in those days) and Jesus said "Come, and you will see." So Jesus's two new disciples went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him.

Simon

This brings us to the next disciple who was called. After Andrew left John the Baptist, and stayed with Jesus all day, he went to call his brother Simon, calling him to come and join in the adventure. Unlike John the baptist who called Jesus the Lamb of God, Andrew told Simon he had found the Messiah - the figure prophesied in the Old Testament as one who would save Israel. There was a lot of debate about the details of these prophecies and what the Messiah would be like and do, but John and Simon were convinced that Jesus was the Messiah - that Jesus was the one.

Andrew and Simon were obviously close brothers, and Andrew did not have to tell his brother twice. Off Simon goes, and when he meets Jesus, Jesus tells him he will be called Peter, which means a Rock. Being called a rock can mean a lot of things, but at the very least was a change for Simon - we know him as a headstrong man, jumping straight in to following Jesus, yet by calling him Rock, Jesus was at least implying he would gain a certain degree of stability, that he didn't have before Jesus.

Philip

Next we get to Philip. After he had spent time with Simon (now called Peter) Jesus goes to find Philip, and directly asks him to follow him. It seems he just bowled up to him and said "Follow me." I suspect Jesus and Philip knew each other from childhood, so following Jesus probably wasn't as big a deal as you might suppose.

Then Philip, like we have just heard about Andrew, goes and tells his friend - Nathanael. We don't know much about the relationship between Philip and Nathanael, but they probably had known each other, as well as Jesus, growing up in the same small town.

Nathanael

Nathanael is our final new disciple. Elsewhere in the gospels, Nathanael is called Bartholomew, and this is because Nathanael was likely his first name, and Bartholomew surname - Bar means 'Son of', so he is Nathanael, Son of Tolmai. Philip also takes a different approach to telling Nathanael who Jesus is - Philip told Nathanael: "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote —Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." - a more detailed way of saying the Messiah.

It seems that Nathanael is a bit cynical about Jesus coming from Nazareth. His comments "Can anything good come out of Nazareth" was probably a bit like someone from Canberra asking if anything good can come from Queanbeyan (or even Cooma?) This doesn't phase Jesus, and he gives as good as he gets - he responds a bit sarcastically to Nathanael, and calls him an Israelite in whom there is no deceit. It's like he says "Look, an honest broker from the big smoke - you don't see that every day!"

Then there is an interesting exchange where Jesus tells Nathanael he saw Philip calling him under the fig tree, which prompts Nathanael to declare: "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." This is of course another way of describing the Messiah - so it's the same message, but just with different words again.

After this sarcastic exchange, 50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man." Here Jesus is telling Nathanael is being called to great things - what prompted him to believe may seem insignificant enough, and it would be nothing compared to the things he would see in the grand adventure of following Jesus - he would witness God himself, and angels travelling between heaven and Jesus himself. He certainly had a lot to look forward to.

What do we learn?

So, having heard about how these four people have come to follow Jesus, having heard the different ways people are called. How were you called?

We have seen that sometimes people are directly called by Jesus himself, as Nathanael was. In one sense, God does call all people who follow him directly, but in terms of our perceptions, our understandings, this probably is the exception rather than the rule.

More often, at least in our perceptions, God calls us through other people. We seem to find it easier to hear when we hear from people rather than by God. When God does this, some are called by professionals, which John the Baptist sort of was. In our context, these professionals often are church ministers (like me) and other professional evangelists and Church workers and Christian school teachers. Christian

Schools and other Christian teachers are vital in this, I am sure many of us here have come to follow Jesus because of the witness of Christian teachers - How many here today are in this category?

Finally, others are called to follow Jesus by friends and family, as Simon and Nathanael were. Since most of our friends, neighbours and colleagues are past the school stage, I believe your role in - our role in calling people to follow Jesus is even more vital than Christian teachers.

The disciples in today's reading responded positively straight away, but you and others in your experience may take a lot longer than that. Some internet pages suggest people often hear the gospel between seven and eighteen times before they accept Christ. I'm not sure about the statistics, but people often do need to hear many times, so perseverance is the key.

Like anything good, it takes time and effort. We all have friends and family that God can use us to call to follow Jesus, but the results are worth it.

Like all the disciples, many will eventually follow Jesus, many, like Nathanael will recognise Jesus as the Son of God. More excitingly, they will ultimately see greater things than what originally calls them to believe. They will see heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man when Jesus returns and we meet him in the life to come.

You can be part of calling these people to follow Jesus and eventually see these greater things. We may not see people turn to follow Jesus quickly, like the disciples did in our reading today, but God promises that he does work through us when he calls people in this way = he does plant seeds through our words, people will follow him, and they will see wondrous things.

Will you play your part in this great mission?

Amen