

# **Worship at home for** **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

## **The first Sunday in Lent**

*Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth,  
make music to the Lord. Psalm 98 v4*

Let's sing together - remembering each other

1 Jesus, stand among us  
At the meeting of our lives;  
Be our sweet agreement  
At the meeting of our eyes.  
O Jesus, we love You, so we gather here;  
Join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.

2 So to You we're gathering  
Out of each and every land;  
Christ the love between us  
At the joining of our hands.  
O Jesus, we love You, so we gather here;  
Join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.

Graham Kendrick (born 1950)

### **And we pray**

Loving God, we are here to worship you, help us to remember that you are here with us. May we pray to you in faith, sing your praise with gratitude, and listen to your word with eagerness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Forgive us Lord for the wrong we have done, by your Holy Spirit we turn back to you.

We thank you for our lives, our loves. For stillness and activity. For the hopes and dreams you implant in our souls. We thank you for your Holy Spirit's prompting to follow the Way of Christ. All praise and glory to You. Amen

### **Mark 1 v 16-20. The Call of the first disciples.**

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

### **A REFLECTION**

Just before this reading Mark writes briefly about the Baptism of Jesus and the temptations in the wilderness (a fuller version can be found in Matthew 3). It is almost as if Mark is eager to get to the part of the story where the first disciples are

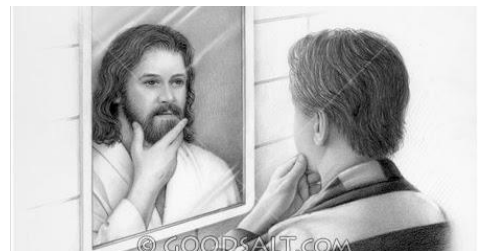
called. The four fishermen, Peter and Andrew, James and John, were by the Sea of Galilee. They had no idea what was in store for them as they became "fishers of men".

*In the first letter to the Corinthians chapter 11 verse 1, Paul writes "imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ".*

In our mind's eye, how do we visualise the person of Jesus Christ who we are called to follow? How would we draw or paint Him? What would He wear? How does the world see Jesus Christ? Actually whoever we are, wherever we live, Jesus would look very much like us all.

It actually doesn't matter how we 'see' him, more what we know about him in order to imitate him. This is something the first disciples learned by being with Jesus for 3 years, and yes they made lots of mistakes along the way.

Today, our calling is to allow Jesus Christ to be the model for how we act and speak. Our attitudes should reflect His personality. We are His likenesses in our modern world. Maybe when we glance in the mirror each morning it will be good to ask ourselves "am I ready to let others see Jesus in me today - all day long?" We'll make mistakes as the disciples did, but we've got the very best helper - the Holy Spirit of God.



### **Prayerfully read this hymn** -674 Singing the Faith.

- 1 Would I have answered when you called,  
'Come follow, follow me!?'  
Would I at once have left behind  
both work and family?  
Or would the old, familiar round  
have held me by its claim  
and kept the spark within my heart  
from bursting into flame?
- 2 Would I have followed where you led  
through ancient Galilee,  
on roads unknown, by ways untried,  
beyond security?  
Or would I soon have hurried back  
where home and comfort drew,

where truth you taught would not disturb  
the ordered world I knew?

3 Would I have matched my step with yours  
when crowds cried, 'Crucify!',  
when on a rocky hill I saw a cross  
against the sky?  
Or would I too have slipped away  
and left you there alone,  
a dying king with crown of thorns  
upon a terrible throne?

4 O Christ, I cannot search my heart  
through all its tangled ways,  
nor can I with a certain mind  
my steadfastness appraise.  
I only pray that when you call,  
'Come follow, follow me!',  
you'll give me strength beyond my own  
to follow faithfully.

Hermann G Stempfle (1923–2007)

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**Offering prayer** – Dear Lord, you give us so much.  
Accept the offering we bring. Use our time and  
talents in your Service.

#### **Prayer of intercession**

Heavenly Father, we come to you bringing our  
world before you today. May your Spirit work in  
the hearts of nations to bring peace and healing.

We pray for the Church in every land. May we  
faithfully preach your Gospel of love and where  
there is persecution, sustain your church so that  
all work together for peace and harmony.

We pray for the needs of our own land. Pour out  
your blessing on all who work for the healing of  
the many people ill with Covid19 at this present  
time. Give strength and comfort to those who  
are sick and to those families who have lost loved  
ones.

Grant that all may work together for the good of  
one another, so that your kingdom of love may  
be established.

We remember all who have died, let light eternal  
shine on them O Lord.

Lord in thy mercy, hear our prayer. Amen

**The Lord's Prayer** – "Our Father....."

#### **Let's join together in our final hymn:**

1 O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;

Lord, be for ever near me,  
my master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if you will be my guide.

2 O let me feel you near me;  
the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me, and within;  
but, Jesus, now draw nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear you speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
Lord, speak, and make me listen,  
O guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, you have promised  
to all who follow you,  
that where you are in glory  
your servant shall be too;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;  
O give me grace to follow  
my master and my friend.

John E Bode (1816-1874)

#### **A Blessing**

The peace of the earth be with you.  
The peace of the heavens too,  
the peace of the rivers be with you,  
the peace of the oceans too,  
Deep peace falling over you.  
God's peace, God's peace growing in you. Amen

#### **We share the Grace**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of  
God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with  
us all, evermore. Amen

