

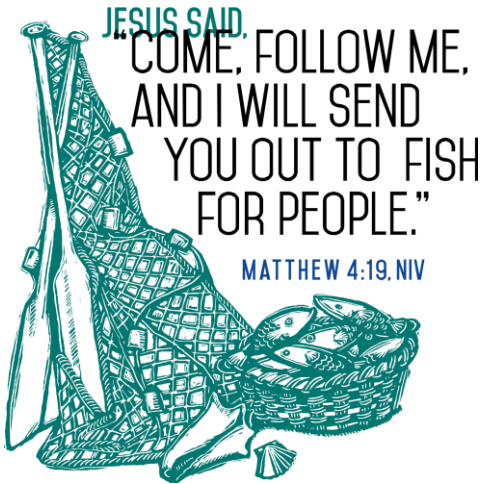
First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 AM JANUARY 22, 2023

Whether we worship in person or online,
may the Spirit of God unite us
in praise and prayer,
worship and witness
to the saving love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

** indicates when to rise in body or in spirit*

(PH denotes *The Presbyterian Hymnal*,
STF denotes *Sing the Faith Hymnal*)



Gathering in God's Name

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We walk in darkness.

People: We live in a land of deep darkness.

Leader: We have seen a great light!

People: Light shines upon us!

Leader: God brings us joy!

All: Rejoice before our God!

*You have come to the lakeshore,
Looking neither for wise nor for wealthy.
You only wanted that I should follow.*

Refrain: *O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me,
And, while smiling, have called out my name.
Now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me,
Now with You I will seek other seas.*

*You know that I own so little,
In my boat there’s no money nor weapons,
You’ll only find there my nets and labor. [Refrain]*

*You, who have fished other oceans,
Ever longed for by souls that are waiting,
My dear and good friend, as thus You call me. [Refrain]*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light, we live in the darkness of despair: worried about our lives, concerned for our health, fearful that we are lost from you. The yoke of our burdens lies heavy upon us: our unwillingness to forgive, our fears of one another, our reluctance to share what we have, our divisions and quarrels.

We long to turn from the dark and live in the light. We yearn to leave what is evil and follow the paths of righteousness. Shine the light of your love upon us and transform us with your love, that your promised realm may draw near. (Our silent prayers continue...)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The light of God's love shines into the dark places of our world, healing its brokenness, and bringing hope to places of despair.

People: **The light of God's love makes us a forgiven people.
Thanks be to God!**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The light of Christ shines brightly in the darkened places of our lives, bringing healing and hope. The light of Christ shines brightly in the faces of our neighbors. Look for that light as we share Christ's peace. May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. (Please share the peace from a distance.)

Listening For God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Open the eyes of our hearts, O God, to the dawning light of your words and your love.

RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 9:2-4

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in the land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

People: **You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing the plunder.**

All: **For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of the oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 4:12-23

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶the 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.” ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As 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 fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As 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. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus 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.

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

TIME WITH ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Responding to God's Word

* HYMN STF #2101

"Two Fishermen"

vs. 1,2 and 4

*Two fishermen, who lived along the Sea of Galilee,
Stood by the shore to cast their nets into an ageless sea.
Now Jesus watched them from afar, then called them each by name.
It changed their lives, these simple men; they'd never be the same.*

*"Leave all things you have and come and follow me,
and come and follow me "*

*And as he walked along the shore 'twas James and John he'd find,
And these two sons of Zebedee would leave their boats behind.
Their work and all they held so dear they left beside their nets.
Their names they'd heard as Jesus called; they came without regret.*

*"Leave all things you have and come and follow me,
and come and follow me "*

*And you, good Christians, one and all who'd follow Jesus' way,
Come leave behind what keeps you bound to trappings of our day,
And listen as he calls your name to come and follow near;;
For still he speaks in varied ways to those his call will hear.*

*"Leave all things you have and come and follow me,
and come and follow me "*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From the Iona Community

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

*** SUNG RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING PH #591**

***“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.”***

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Going Into The World as Christ's Disciples

* HYMN PH #343 *“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”* vs. 1,2 and 4

*Called as partners in Christ's service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfil God's chosen end.*

*Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.*

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“God Welcomes All”

*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.*

* POSTLUDE

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**OUR WORSHIP IS ENDED.**

**OUR SERVICE BEGINS!**

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(Worship liturgy is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu.)