



'Worship at home' January 21st 2024



We come to worship God who
calls each of us into relationship.

As the disciples were called by Jesus,
we too are called to follow the way of Christ.

In this liturgical season of Epiphany, we are invited to consider
how we respond to the presence of Christ in our midst.

Opening

Jesus calls us
to praise and prayer,
to song and silence;
Jesus calls us to worship.

Jesus calls us
to hearing and healing,
to service and solidarity;
Jesus calls us to love.

Jesus calls us
to advocacy and action,
to protest and provision;
Jesus calls us to justice.

Let us heed the call of Christ.
Let us worship with joy.



~ adapted from Joanna Harader
<https://spaciousfaith.com/>

**What does it mean for you to be
a disciple, or a follower of
Jesus Christ?**

**Which aspects or teachings are
most important to you? Why?**

Dictionary.com defines a disciple as:

- A person who is a pupil or adherent to the doctrines of another
- One who embraces and assists in spreading the teaching of another
- Any follower of another person

Following Jesus Christ is more than simply adhering to a particular doctrine or set of beliefs. Embracing the way of Christ involves not only what we believe, but who we are and how we live. Being a disciple of Christ changes our whole lives.

Mark 1:14-20

After John had been put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Good News from God. "The right time has come," he said, "and the Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!"

As Jesus walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Simon and his brother Andrew, catching fish with a net. Jesus said to them, "Come with me, and I

will teach you to catch people." At once they left their nets and went with him.

He went a little farther on and saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat getting their nets ready. As soon as Jesus saw them, he called them; they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and went with Jesus.

Good News Bible

Jesus begins his ministry by gathering friends, companions and colleagues to journey with him. It was the "right time" to proclaim the good news of the gospel, that the Kingdom of God was near. Ordinary people with ordinary occupations, fishermen and tax collectors, with no particularly special skills or abilities, were invited to join him on his mission. It seems that these four fishermen left their nets, their livelihood, their family, their friends, all that was familiar, and were willing to follow without knowing what this might involve, or where it might take them.

We too are each invited to follow the way of Christ. We need no special skills or abilities, apart from a willingness to journey with him, without knowing what this might involve or where it might take us.



What have you left behind in order to follow Christ?

How have you been enriched?

We may not be asked to leave our professions and our family, to leave our father in the boat and follow ...OR we may be.

We may not be asked to journey into situations of danger or uncertainty ...OR we may be.

We may not be asked to give up everything we have ...OR we may be.

We sometimes talk of being “called” to ministry, or to become a missionary, or work for the church in some capacity. However, the invitation to discipleship extends to our whole lives, not simply what we do at church. We are each called to use our skills and abilities to serve God with all our lives. This may not mean we are called to do something different. Many of us are called to be who we are, where we are. In being called to follow Jesus Christ, we are invited into a new relationship, in which we embrace love and life in a new way. We are called to leave behind that which binds us, which holds us back, which burdens us, and find the promise of new life. We are called to become.

How does being a disciple help you become who you are created to be?

Following Jesus invites us to live differently...



To pay attention to the outcast, the sick, the poor among us.

To challenge the status quo.

To seek justice and equality.

To show kindness and compassion.

To allow our own faith and assumptions to be up-ended by new ideas and new experiences.

Following Jesus is not a momentary decision, but an ongoing journey and a lifelong commitment. It brings with it the promise of new life, and God’s presence and spirit to guide and lead and sustain and teach us on the journey, wherever it may take us.



As a follower of Jesus Christ, what new opportunities might you be called to embrace?

Later, Jesus instructs his disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:18). We invite others to join this journey also, to find for themselves the life-changing love that Jesus offers.



Pray for

- openness to follow Christ’s call
- those struggling in their Christian journey
- all Australians, as we acknowledge hurts and wrongs, joys and blessings on Australia Day
- justice, peace and reconciliation in our country and as we face the global challenges of this time
- global leadership to work together
- new opportunities and new challenges

Closing

Gentle and patient

God, you are calling.

Careful and persistent

God, you are calling.

In grieving and in praise

God, you are calling.

Through dawn and midday

God, you are calling.

Unexpected and planned

God, you are calling.

In a still small voice and in power

God, you are calling.

Spontaneous and prepared

God, you are calling.

Willing or protected

God, you are calling.

Our God is eager to share with us,
wherever we are in our journey.

May we be diligent to listen.

God, you are calling.



~ Joanie Thurman Williams

<http://www.consideryourcall.org/sites/default/files/CYC-Media/Toolbox/Materials/Worship-Toolbox.pdf>