



'Worship at home' January 15th 2023



As you come this day to worship,
you might like to light a candle
as a reminder of Christ's light in your life.

Opening

Come and see surprising grace,
and a love which knows no ending.
Come and see a Christ
who longs for war to become peace,
hunger to be ended
and suffering transformed
into the promise of a new day.
Meet the One who is to be trusted,
who embraces the stranger
and welcomes the excluded.
This is our friend, Jesus Christ.
We celebrate this life which lifts our hearts.



<https://sceanutgallery.com/2014/01/10/morning-prayer-10-jan-john-135-42-come-and-see/>

Together in Worship and Praise, Year A. MediaCom 2019. p41

Prayer

Loving God, as we come to you this day
we know that you call us to "come and see,"
the invitation is always there for us,
and your arms are always open.
Gracious God, as we respond to your call this day
open our hearts
and minds to
hear you more,
see you more
and learn a little
more of you
and your love.
Amen.



John 1:29-42

The very next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, "Here he is, God's Passover Lamb! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the man I've been talking about, 'the One who comes after me but is really ahead of me.' I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer. That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God." John clinched his witness with this: "I watched the Spirit, like a dove flying down out of the sky, making himself at home in him. I repeat, I know nothing about him except this: The One who authorized me to baptize with water told me, 'The One on whom you see the Spirit come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' That's exactly what I saw happen, and I'm telling you, there's no question about it: This is the Son of God."

The next day John was back at his post with two disciples, who were watching. He looked up, saw Jesus walking nearby, and said, "Here he is, God's Passover Lamb." The two disciples heard him and went after Jesus. Jesus looked over his shoulder and said to them, "What are you after?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" He replied, "Come along and see for yourself." They came, saw where he was living, and ended up staying with him for the day. It was late afternoon when this happened. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John's witness and followed Jesus. The first thing he did after finding where Jesus lived was find his own brother, Simon, telling him, "We've found the Messiah" (that is, "Christ"). He immediately led him to Jesus.

Jesus took one look up and said, "You're John's son, Simon? From now on your name is Cephas" (or Peter, which means "Rock").

What are you looking for?
Good question.
What are you looking for?
That's what Jesus asks.
That's what he asks of you.
John said he was something special
— the lamb of God —
so you were just following at a respectful distance
to have a look.
Who is he?
What is he on about?
Where is he coming from?
“We'll take a look,” you thought.



Taken from a sermon by Nathan Nettleton

<http://southyarrabaptist.church/sermons/come-and-see-where-you-belong/>

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Why did John the Baptist refer to Jesus as “God’s Passover Lamb?”

What do you understand by this phrase?

It is a rather strange statement to our modern ears. We think of Lambs as being cute and maybe rather skittish, not as something that will save us. For some, phrases like ‘saved by the blood of the lamb’ are not helpful or relatable – yet in Jesus times those listening would have known and understood exactly what was meant. Jewish people celebrated the Passover each year, when the blood of the sacrificial lamb was placed on the door frame and the first born in that house was saved. This was a celebration of God’s delivering the people from slavery in Egypt and the eventual fulfilment of the covenantal promises of land, protection and provision. The terminology has continued, and Jesus is sometimes described as our lamb – whose blood has ‘saved us’ through his crucifixion and then resurrection.

John pointed to Jesus as the one they had been waiting for, come to bring God's forgiveness, love and grace. When the disciples asked Jesus about this, his response was to "Come along and see for yourself." Jesus did not simply preach God's good news, he also showed it by his words, his actions, his whole life. Something about him revealed to those disciples that day that he was indeed the Messiah, the Christ who they had been seeking.

How might you live such that your life reveals God's love, forgiveness and grace, by your words and actions?

Come and see
Come and see where I belong
Come and see where you belong
Come and see what you
are looking for
Come and see who you are,
who you were created to be,
who you are called to become.
Come and see.
Come!



Adapted from a sermon by Nathan Nettleton

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Pray for:

- God's love, forgiveness and grace to be made even more evident in our world
- those most impacted by the floods in our nation
- those struggling with the start of a new year
- the people and leaders of Ukraine and Russia, and other countries where there is unrest and conflict



Closing

Go in peace,
and choose light over darkness,
hope over despair,
Go in the sure knowledge that
God's goodness is all around us. Amen

The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2020. Abingdon Press p19