



**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 17<sup>th</sup> 2021**

*Knowing where we are called*



'Calling disciples' by He Qi

# GATHERING

## Announcements

### Introduction

*Seng Eng*

We are in the liturgical season of Epiphany, the period between Christmas and Ash Wednesday. What is an epiphany? It is when something is made clear, it is an 'aha!' moment, a lightbulb moment, a moment of revelation. In Christianity, what is revealed is that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Saviour of the world. During Epiphany, the church focusses on how, we as a church reveal to the wider world who Christ is. *We think about how we can bring the good news.* This is our mission. Epiphany is also a time of focusing on Christian community and fellowship. Because it is when we work together as a community, that's when we can make Christ known. With that in mind, let us call one another to worship.

### Greeting

In the name of God our Father and Mother,  
In the name of the Son who calls us to follow,  
In the name of the Holy Spirit,

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

### Call to worship

This is the time, this is the place;

***God has called each of us here.***

Ever present, deep within and all around,

***God speaks, inviting us to listen.***

God has known us from everlasting.

***God has loved us from before we were born.***

Come and see, for God is calling us.

***Come and worship, for God is here.***

Amen.

### Prayer of invocation

Let us pray,

Jesus Christ, the one who calls us,  
we open ourselves to meet you here.

Just as Philip invited Nathanael to encounter you,  
help us to invite one another to meet you.

Come and move among us,

that we might hear your call upon our lives,

and upon the lives of others,

today, tomorrow and all the days of our lives. Amen

**Hymn: TIS477 Jesus calls us here to meet him**

**Prayer of reconciliation**

*Colin*

Merciful God,  
we acknowledge that nothing is hidden from you.  
All that we would hide from others  
and even from ourselves  
is spread out before you.  
You know us better than our closest friends,  
better than we know our selves.  
In this moment,  
we admit that we have tried to fool ourselves, others and you.  
***Forgive us, and help us  
to hear your call upon our lives.***

O God,  
We acknowledge that we are sometimes tempted to believe that  
you are hard to find,  
that you are far from us.  
We forget that you continually whisper truth,  
and we fail to listen carefully  
to your word for us today.  
We forget also that you can speak through us  
to our community,  
and we fail to offer wisdom to one another.  
***Forgive us, and help us  
to encourage and inspire one another.***  
Amen

**Words of assurance:**

Friends, hear the words of assurance:  
When we are attentive, we will hear God's voice.  
When we share in community, we will be shaped by God.  
For God's call upon our lives,  
for God's word upon our hearts,  
for God's presence in our community,  
Thanks be to God!  
***Thanks be to God!***

**Hymn: TIS 693 Come as you are**

*Colin*

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
***And also with you.***

*Please share the peace with your immediate neighbours*

**Seng Eng**

**Video: We are OzHarvest.** Angela going on holidays and had to submit the oos really early before I had found a video. The video is about OzHarvest. You may have seen the yellow OzHarvest trucks around town. And it all started with one woman, Ronnie Kahn. She worked as an events organizer and after each of the events, she noticed how loads of perfectly good food that was leftover, was simply binned. What a waste. And from her desire not to let good food be sent to the tip, Oz Harvest was born.

## HEARING THE WORD

I will come back to the video a little later but for now, I want to get us thinking about the theme for today, which is knowing where we are called. Each one of us is a unique individual and so Christ's call to each one is also unique. Before we hear the Bible readings, let us listen to some wisdom from more contemporary sources:

"Wisdom consists in doing the next thing you have to do, doing it with your whole heart, and finding delight in doing it."

**Meister Eckhart** *13th Century German theologian, philosopher and mystic*

"If a man is called a streetsweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and Earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.'"

**Martin Luther King Jr.**

"The place where God calls you to is where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

**Carl Frederick Buechner**, *American theologian*

### The Bible Readings

**First Reading Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

***You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.***

You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

***Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O Lord, you know it completely.***

*Name*

You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

***Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.***

For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

***I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.***

My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

***In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.***

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

***I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end—I am still with you.***

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

### **Second reading John 1:43-51**

*Name*

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup> Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup> And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord:

***Praise to you Lord Christ.***

**Reflection** *Knowing where we are called*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn: TIS 468 We are your people; Spirit of grace *Seng Eng*

### Let's Give: Our Offerings

*Colin*

As we bring forward our offerings, you are invited to discern where God is calling you; how God is speaking into your life.

### Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
praise him, all creatures here below,  
praise him, above ye heavenly host,  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

### Offertory prayer:

Loving God, we offer our lives and these gifts in service to you. Here we are, send us to proclaim your good news.

### Prayers of the people

*John Egarr*

When the one who prays says, “**God, you know our ways,**” you are invited to respond “**Help us to hear your call,**”

### The Lord's Prayer

*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 forever. Amen.*

# SENDING OUT

**Hymn: Come live in the light**

*Seng Eng*

**Blessing:**

Go from here,  
attentive to God's voice in every part of your week.  
Listen for God's word in your life and in the lives of others,  
and share God's love wherever you go.

May God's light guide your path,  
May Christ's call be your inspiration,  
And May the Spirit's presence be your strength.

...Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

***In the name of Christ. Amen.***

**Chorus: TIS 755 You shall go out with joy**

**Musical Postlude**

**Organist:**

*Jim Abraham*