



Western Fells Methodist Circuit

**24 January 2021**

**by  
Jackie Davies**

**We begin with some verses of a hymn: StF588 Brian Wren (b. 1936)**

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| 1. I come with joy, a child of God,<br>forgiven, loved and free,<br>the life of Jesus to recall,<br>in love laid bare for me. | 5. Together met, together bound<br>by all that God has done,<br>we'll go with joy, to give the world<br>the love that makes us one. |
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**And some prayers:**

We praise you Lord that in these times we can be still and talk to you and listen.

In this world, that has so much to say about everything but not much of it reassuring, we listen for your still small voice. A voice of calm and peace, a voice of love and hope. Even though our times are hard and we find it difficult, you are with us always, even until the end of time.

We thank you for your presence Lord.

Help us to see you at work in this world, through the kindness of people, through the sacrifice of those who work for the good of others, through our own daily interactions, even when we are in lockdown.

Help us to see you in others, Lord.

Forgive us, when we don't have patience, or when we want to see the speck in our neighbour's eye but ignore the plank of wood in ours. Help us to be kind to others. Help us to always be inspired and thankful that you want to walk with us, even us, and you call us to follow you. **Amen**

And now say quietly the prayer that Jesus taught us.....*Our Father...*

**Our Bible Reading Mark 1:14-20 NRSV The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry**

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news<sup>[a]</sup> of God,<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;<sup>[c]</sup> repent, and believe in the good news."<sup>[d]</sup>

**Jesus Calls the First Disciples** <sup>16</sup> As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who

were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup> Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

### **A reflection:**

There a lot of questions that I would like to ask about this passage.

*Did Jesus set off that day and say "Let's see who I can find to help me with the task I have to do?"* It seems, that he was just passing and saw them and thought, they'll do. This is both encouraging and terrifying!

*Did Jesus know the type of person who would make a good disciple?*

If we want to go for a job, especially today, you have to prepare your cv and the employer usually has a long list of requirements of what the ideal candidate will be. No, it seems that Jesus was prepared to give anyone a go, to be a follower of Christ.

*Did Jesus know their background?* It seems not. but we have to remember that as told in John ch 4 v 28, when Jesus met the woman at the well, she later says to the people "Come and see a man who told me everything that I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"

Jesus called the disciples just as they were. They followed him straight away. Although they often didn't get things right, Jesus still called them.

And He calls us still.....

What do you feel about the idea that you are chosen by Jesus?

What is it about Jesus that would make you want to say, Yes?

What might make you hesitate?

### **We respond with our prayers:**

Look again at the **Litany of Praise**, that we used last week as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Consider how, or if, you praised God during this past week. Bring your thoughts before God, in your prayers.

### **You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!**

We sing your praise in the midst of the world and among all peoples,  
We sing your praise in the midst of creation and among all creatures.

### **You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!**

We sing your praise among suffering and tears,  
We sing your praise among promises and achievements.

**You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!**

We sing your praise in the places of conflict and misunderstanding;

We sing your praise in the places of encounter and reconciliation.

**You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!**

We sing your praise in the midst of rifts and divisions,

We sing your praise in the midst of life and death, the birth of a new heaven  
and a new earth.

**You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!**

**Consider the words of the second verse of StF 673 - Will you come and  
follow me:**

v 2 Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

**A Blessing. Lord bless us, as you call us to follow you. Amen**

**CCL**

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