

Trinitarian Congregational Church
TakeOut
February 6, 2022

Bells

Announcements

Prelude

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,”
traditional spiritual, arr. John Carter

Call to Worship

Bob Scott

Leader: The Lord God Almighty is exalted in holiness.
God’s glorious presence fills the whole earth.

**People: Our hearts are filled with thanks, O God.
We lift our songs of praise before you.**

Leader: All the rulers of the nations are called to praise God.
All the people of earth are subject to God’s rule.

**People: The steadfast love of God surrounds us here.
We have come to see and hear and understand.**

Leader: Let the thresholds shake with the power of God’s voice.
Let all the people tremble before God’s majesty.

**People: God’s purposes endure and will be fulfilled.
Our lives can be channels for God’s grace.**

***Hymn**

Holy, Holy, Holy

NCH 277

***Gathering Prayer**

Bob Scott

O God, we are awed that you meet us in this holy space. When we remember your majesty and power we are humbled by your attention and disturbed by our corruption. Yet your steadfast love and mercy remain our security and hope. As we attend to your gospel may we perceive your presence, receive your grace, and respond to your call. May we go to those to whom you send us and do the work you intend for us. For the glory of Christ, Amen.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, reign without end. Amen, amen.

Scripture

Isaiah 6:1-8

Bob Scott

Set in the eighth century BCE, this text is Isaiah’s first-person recollection of his call to ministry from God. It occurs shortly after the death of King Uzziah, in a period of political insecurity and moral corruption. The vision seems intended to reassure the prophet that his ministry has the backing of God

Almighty. His call is to warn God's people of judgement for their disregard of the covenant, and also reassure them of God's continued mercy and its anticipated restoration.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” ⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Luke 5:1-11

Rosemary Dawson

Luke wrote his gospel approximately 80-90 AD, telling the story of Jesus with the needs of his churches in mind. In this early period of the church there were many competing claims, demands and agendas. Thus, the two important issues this passage highlights are authority (who should the church community believe) and mission (what should the church community do in its context). The answer to those questions comes in the call of these fishermen to discipleship; they are to learn from Jesus' teachings and witness the acts of God. The expected response for God's people is then to 'follow Christ' and reach out to others with the good news.

¹Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Special Music

“The Old Rugged Cross”
Rev. George Bennard, arr. Phillip Keveren

Sermon

Catch of the Day

Have you ever been caught by something you didn't expect? Ever get a text that says something like 'Hi, it's Rosemary. My car's broken down and I need you to send me \$50 dollars in bitcoins so I can get back to Northfield.' Would you do it? No! It's a scam and we know it. Of course, we don't always. Sometimes we get caught. This past month Greg got a call from a 'debt collector' for PayPal, claiming he owed \$20 from 5 years ago. I told him 'Hang up!' He took the bait. What a mess!

But there are others, besides scams that can catch you. You can 'catch a cold', 'catch a man, or a woman'. You can get caught up in politics. Even faith seems to be something that can 'catch you.'

Today in Scripture, when Jesus was at the Sea of Galilee it seems he was trawling – but not for fish. Jesus, as always, was invested in netting people for the kingdom of God. If you can imagine it, scripture says crowds were 'teeming' around him, eager to hear God's word, and he was teaching them. In other words, he was gathering up a school – of people. I wonder how many he pulled in that day? We know one person in particular who became the 'catch of the day' – Simon Peter.

It had been a long day for Simon. In fact, it started the evening before with a fishing trip. Now, early in the day, he finds himself on shore with Jesus teaching a good-sized crowd. And you have to wonder – when did Simon get caught? Did he get caught when Jesus got into his boat and asked him to row out a way so he could use it as a pulpit? Simon could have said no. He could have politely said 'please leave' or maybe 'go find yourself another boat'. After all, he still had a lot of work to do before he could call it a day. Yet Simon Peter set aside his tasks and, perhaps with some curiosity, accommodated this man who showed up 'at his door'. It that when he was caught? How did you first encounter Jesus Christ? Did someone casually enter your life and pique your interest?

For whatever reason, Simon now was sitting in the choir seat, listening to Jesus teach. And I can't help but be curious myself about what Jesus said. Whatever Jesus actually said I imagine it was something like 'good new for the poor... and now is time of God's favor.' I wonder if Jesus' words stirred a longing in Simon. I wonder if Jesus' words gave Simon some hope, some value, some promise of grace. [[I wonder if that is when Simon got caught? He might have been like the hometown folks of Nazareth, impressed and annoyed. He might have heard and then dismissed Jesus' words. Or he might has said 'nice sermon, preacher, see you next week.']] What about you? Have you ever heard God's word, genuinely heard it and somehow it caught you for good?

Whatever Simon heard it did seem to make a difference because after preaching (who knows for how long) Jesus says to Simon Peter 'put out into the deep waters and get ready to fish. Simon could have knocked him, saying 'Jesus what do you know about fishing'. He could have complained 'We're too tired'. He could have said 'Maybe tomorrow'. Rather Simon said to Jesus 'because you say so...' And then he rowed out into the deep. Is that when Simon got caught? When he was open to a possibility he hadn't planned for? Did he get caught when he took Jesus up on his word and followed his direction? Have you ever found yourself doing something unanticipated? Using your abilities at some prompt, even if it didn't make sense? Have you ever felt that nudge of the Spirit, and followed it because, well...you did?

And did you find its reward? Simon did, boy did he! The nets were so full he had to double the hold with another boat! I wonder if Simon Peter thought 'well, if this isn't fishy!' But he may also have remembered all the scriptures that proclaim God as reigning over the seas. Maybe he got so caught up

in the mystery and magnitude of the moment that he had to cry out ‘leave me, Lord, I am a sinful man.’ Maybe Christ’s authority and power caught him so fully that he felt totally awed by Jesus and deep humbled by his brokenness. Did such a realization catch Simon in that moment? Has it ever caught you?

That can be a very painful place to be, and yet there was Jesus – he did not condemn Simon, did not tell him to repent – or else. He simply said ‘Don’t be afraid’. It did not matter to Jesus one bit who Simon was or what he had, or hadn’t done. He just took Simon ‘as is’ and ‘as he was called to be’. And he told Simon ‘from now on you’ll be catching people.’ I wonder if that caught Simon – the unbelievable grace, the unbelievable acceptance that embrace his so fully and sent him forward on a new path. Have you been caught up in that embrace of mercy, the amazing grace of God that has taken hold of you and set your life in a new direction?

It happens. When Simon Peter got back to shore that day, he did the only thing he could do. He left the boats, the nets, the fish; he left it all and went with Jesus. After all, he was the ‘catch of the day.’ When did you get caught? Amen.

***Hymn**

Jesus Calls Us

NCH 172

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Holy God, we thank you so much for the love that seeks us out wherever we are. We thank you for the work of Christ who came seeking to catch us for your kingdom. We thank you for your Spirit who nets us with your grace and moves us with your call. We are awed and humbled that you call us to join in your good purpose for this world and so we come seeking your wisdom and strength.

We pray for the world and all its leaders. May they hear your true word and pursue your will for peace and justice among the nations. We pray as well for all who need your grace today. May the ill know your healing touch, the sorrowful your comforting presence and the needy your generous aid. We especially lift up... and we thank you for...

We praise you, Glorious God, for all your mercy to us through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...

The Lord’s Prayer

Choral Response

Remember Me

Offering

When our lives are opened to the presence of God and we experience his grace, we also hear his call. Christ invites us to reach out to our sisters and brothers with the good news of God’s reign. Our offerings help to make this ministry possible. Let us dedicate our gifts with joy.

We have sensed your presence, O God, and we are filled with awe. We have heard your voice, and we are moved to respond. Use the resources we dedicate here to empower our witness to your loving care and to the good news of your salvation. Amen.

Doxology (choose the one that is best for your faith)

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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that Love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen

Communion

*Hymn	For the Bread	CH 411
Invitation		
Great Thanksgiving		
Consecration and Service		
Prayer of Gratitude		

*Hymn O Holy God, Whose Gracious Power NCH 535

***Common Commission**

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*** Benediction**

Go now into the world

and may the God of peace provide you with every good thing you need in order to do his will,
and may he, through Jesus Christ, do in us what pleases him, for his everlasting glory.

Hebrews 13: 20-21

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

Postlude "There's a River Flowin' in My Soul"
Rose Sanders. Arr. Kenny Smith

music provided by Chris Harris and Lynne Walker