

Trinitarian Congregational Church
TakeOut
Epiphany 3 B
January 24, 2021

Bells <https://youtu.be/-6qZ9A6GFik>

Announcements

Prelude “Once to Every Man and Nation,”
Thomas Williams. Arr. by Fred Bock
<https://youtu.be/IRxSpAUJZxQ>

Call to Worship

Sue McGowan
Rosemary Dawson

One: Come let us worship God, our rock and our fortress.
Let us turn to God in confidence and peace.

All: We place our hope in God, who is our deliverer.
God alone is our shelter and haven.

One: Let us trust in God, who is strong and loving.
Let us open our hearts to the One who hears.

All: God is among us, bringing his reign to fulfillment.
We hear the message and believe the good news.

One: Let us walk in the way of God’s chosen One,
Let us follow with courage and commitment.

All: We are eager to know the way in which God will lead us.
We will honor God with our reverence and service.

Hymn O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing vs 1, 2, 4
<https://youtu.be/xIxfuMgiMx8>

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

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AZMON C.M.

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt., 1972

Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing Our
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, That
3. Our gra - cious Mas - ter and our God, As -
4. Glo - ry to God and praise and love Be -

dear Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of our
bids our sor - rows cease— Its mu - sic in the
sist us to pro - claim, To spread through all the
ev - er, ev - er given By saints be - low and

God and King, The tri - umphs of his grace!
sin - ner's ears Brings life, and health, and peace.
earth a - broad, The hon - ors of your name.
saints a - bove, The church in earth and heaven. A - men.

O God, we gather together that we might worship and honor you. We are grateful for your steadfast love that has claimed us and has called us. Help us to recognize your presence, hear your words and step out in response to your good news. Grant us the courage to leave behind the comfortable and familiar that we may follow you in new and greater ways. Teach us to become messengers of your grace and servants of your love that we may catch people up into the joy of your kingdom. We ask this in Jesus name, and for his glory. Amen.

Gloria Patri

<https://youtu.be/OLz3R1hnUjs>

Scripture Readings

Psalm 62:5-12

⁵ For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

⁷ On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰ Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

¹¹ Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,

¹² and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.

For you repay to all according to their work.

Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.

²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Musical Reflection

Praise Ye the Triune God,”
arr. Tedd Smith.

<https://youtu.be/jGt8BRuLL80>

Are you the kind of person who likes to do challenging things?

One our first official date Greg asked me to go rock climb and repelling. I went and it sealed the deal. Would I do it now? Oh, yeah. My head and heart are eager; my body – a little less sure, but what the heck. If that is what a first date is like, think about marriage. It's no less challenging, now is it?

so when we turn our attention to faith, do we really think that this 'following Jesus' is going to be comfy and safe (and maybe a little boring). *Oh no*, at least if you are up for a challenge....

Today we find Jesus and the disciples on a 'first date' if you will. John has been imprisoned and Jesus steps into the lime-light, both picking up where John left off and moving God's great purpose forward. He is even so bold as to say 'the time, God's time, is now. God's purpose, God kingdom is at hand. Jesus sees and speaks of God's great work in the midst of his world and then boldly tells those who are listening 'Repent and believe. Turn toward God, shift your direction, Look, Listen, Pay Attention – God is here, accomplishing God's grand purpose. Believe it, believe this good news, trust it and live for it!

And then Jesus does something more than make a broad announcement. He goes looking for people. He goes to Andrew and Peter, who are quietly living their lives, fishing a backwater lake, and says "Follow me", 'Come with me and I will transform you so that you will be gathering people'. He finds James and John and makes the same offer to them. And all four of them, Andrew, Peter, James and John immediately drop what they are doing, leave behind family and business and go after Jesus.

Kind of sounds like a crazy first date, doesn't it. What would compel them to risk such a change? Why would they want to follow this unknown, unauthorized stranger to parts unknown? Had they heard Jesus' preaching? Did they sense the good news that 'God's time is now; the realm of God's kingdom is here, being experienced today'? Were they ready to turn away from what was to take hold of what could be? Were they excited about a new challenge, a life-changing, life-fulfilling challenge?

Apparently so- they became disciples of Christ. They followed him through Galilee, into Judea, and anywhere Christ led them. They learned his lessons, saw his miracles, and proclaimed his message to others – trying their hand at 'fishing for people'. They celebrated when he entered Jerusalem, and were crushed when he was crucified. They were stunned when he rose from the dead and were empowered by the fire of his Spirit. Without them, without that first crazy date, there would be no us, no church, no TCC. Without their willingness, their eagerness to 'follow me' what might this world be.

But then, they are not the only ones who have ever heard that call. How many generations of men and women have heard Christ's words, turned, believed, trusted and pursued the good news of God's saving, renewing grace. How many have learned God's wisdom and ways, saw mighty works of justice and goodness, even miracles. How many have taken a part in 'gathering others', of inviting others to come and know this Christ, just as they have known him.

And what about us? Have we heard the good news of Christ? Have we looked, listen and paid attention to the presence and power of God? Have we turned in trust, and hoped in the promise? How many of us realize that the time is now, always now, to enter the realm of God and serve God's great purpose? Are you, are we, willing to take the risk when the Spirit of Christ comes to us and says 'come with me, and you will be...'

For us, for this church, and for many of our lives this is not a crazy first date. It's a lifetime of 'and immediately they, we, followed.' And while our question, our serious concern, is 'where are we headed' that is not Christ's concern. He simply says 'follow me, and I will lead...'. The heart of discipleship and the fulfillment of God's kingdom lies in our response. Are you up for the challenge?

Amen.

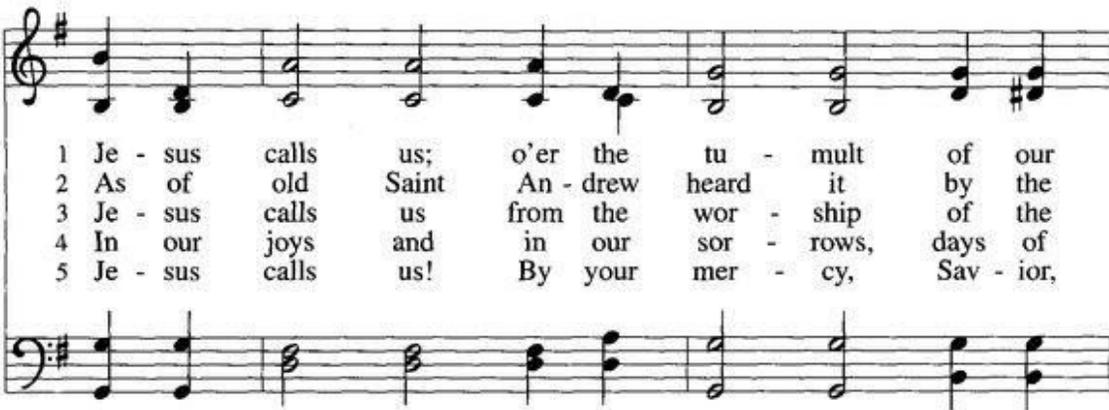
Moment of Reflection

Hymn

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult vs 1, 2, 5
<https://youtu.be/vgP70vB3IJQ>

Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult

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1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me":
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Joys and Concerns

As you meet with God in prayer, please lift up the joys and concerns shared through the Trumpet Blast. God is eager to be your help and strength, to listen to you and meet your needs. Prayer is a gift we can always use.

Prayers of the People

Holy God, we are awed today by your love for us, your call to us and your presence with us. We thank you for Jesus Christ, who came announcing the coming of your kingdom and inviting us to follow him on the way. We thank you for your Spirit, who daily walks with us and leads us into faithful obedience and courageous service. We are here today to answer your call and seek your power that we may indeed live as Christ's disciples.

And so we pray for your church and for this congregation. Open our spirits to your nearness. Help us to look, listen and pay attention to the good news of your reign; and embolden us to follow Jesus Christ in living for your kingdom. Lead us in our particular call and purpose here in this community, that we may share with all our neighbors the message of Christ. We pray as well for our leaders-- for government officials, business leaders and church authorities. May they hear your voice calling them to your great purposes and may they respond with boldness and faithfulness to establish your justice and peace throughout the world. We ask also for your mercy toward all who seek you today. Grant your guidance to those who are lost, your restoration to those who are broken, and your strength to those who are weary. Grant your healing to the sick, your comfort to the sorrowful, and your aid to the needy. We especially lift up the needs of ... and we thank you for your faithful goodness in.... Now lead us, who know your care and support, to make your kingdom real through our words and actions, among all whom our lives touch.

We praise you, Wondrous God, for your great mercy and grace, your presence, power and call, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Choral Response

https://youtu.be/IAivVHv_abc

Offering

Christ gave his life to fulfill the promise of God's reign. We are now invited to follow Christ reaching out to sharing his blessings with others. Our giving reflects our commitment of faith and service. Let us dedicate our offerings with joy.

O God, we present these offerings with grateful hearts for the riches of the life, and for the greater riches of your grace. As Christ has called us to follow him in faithful service, we here commit our lives and our resources to your purposes. Use these gifts and our lives, that your blessings may extend to all the world. Amen.

Doxology

<https://youtu.be/517PEGUPAXQ>

Hymn

O Jesus I Have Promised vs 1, 3
<https://youtu.be/zpBqddKKziE>

O Jesus, I Have Promised

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John E. Bode, 1868; alt.

Luke 9:57; John 14:1-4

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 3 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my Sav - ior and my Friend:
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will!
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be, too;

I shall not fear life's strug - gles if you are by my side,
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol!
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, O guar - dian of my soul!
 O give me grace to fol - low my Sav - ior and my Friend!

John Ernest Bode wrote these words when his daughter and two sons were confirmed. Although the Oxford scholar and rector wrote books of hymns, this is the only one to achieve lasting fame.

Tune: ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6.D.
 A. H. Mann, 1883
 Alternate tune: MUNICH

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 God make you worthy of his high calling,
and by his power fulfill in you every good desire and faithful work
through the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thes 1:11-12b adj

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

Postlude

“Because He Lives,”
William J. Gaither., arr. by Fred Bock.
https://youtu.be/J_YoOJeg_jk