

**New Castle United Methodist Church
510 Delaware Street
New Castle, DE 19720**

**The Message for January 24, 2021
“The Twelve Disciples”
Pastor Ray Eck**

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is recorded in the first 4 books of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The synoptic gospels are the first three books of the New Testament, written around 55-65 A.D. by Matthew, Mark and Doctor Luke, and contain many of the same stories about the life of Jesus. Each one was written from a different point of view, so details may differ. The Book of John was written about 35-40 years later. All four books were written from firsthand experience with Jesus. They walked with Him and talked with Him. How marvelous!

The Book of Mark was probably the first Gospel written. Matthew and Luke quote all but 31 verses of Mark, and Mark recorded more miracles than any other gospel.

Our lesson today brings us to the beginning of Jesus’ ministry in Galilee.

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”. At once, they left their nets and followed him. When He had gone a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.

Without delay... he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

These were the first 4 disciples. So, what is the Good News of God?

These first words spoken by Jesus in Mark gave the meaning to all His teachings. That the long-awaited Messiah has come to break the power of sin and begin God’s personal reign on Earth. Most of the people who heard this message were oppressed, poor and without hope. Jesus’ words were, indeed, Good News because they offered freedom, justice and hope to those in the most need.

Fishing was a major industry around the Sea of Galilee and fishing with nets was the most common method. Jesus and his first disciples went on to Capernaum. Capernaum was the largest of more than 30 fishing towns at that time, and it was here in Capernaum that Jesus chose to live.

We often assume that Jesus' disciples were great men of faith from the first time they met Jesus. Not so. Over time they had to grow in their faith, just as you and I and all believers must do. Jesus picked 12 followers during his lifetime. The gospels don't explain why Jesus picked these particular men, and they don't agree about how early in the movement's history they became the core group.

He chose:

Peter: He was a fisherman from Capernaum (John says Bethsaida). He's also often called Simon, Simon-Peter, or Cephas. (Cephas comes from the Aramaic for "rock," and Peter comes from the Greek equivalent for the same.) Jesus selected Peter to be the leader of this group of men. Peter's name, which means "rock," was given to him by Jesus. Peter's conception of the church as a spiritual house composed of living stones built upon Christ as the foundation came from Christ. Jesus encouraged Peter to care for His church as a shepherd tends the flock. Scripture teaches us that Christ did not build His church upon Peter but rather, the church was built upon Jesus Christ.

Next was Andrew. He was Simon-Peter's brother and fishing partner; John's Gospel says that Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist.

James: He was son of Zebedee and a fisherman from Capernaum. He is was called "James the Elder."

John, the beloved disciple, was James's brother and partner in the family fishing business. Maybe because they were so brazen, Jesus gives the two brothers the name "Boanerges," which is the Greek form of the Aramaic phrase, the "Sons of Thunder." John lived into old age, and died of natural causes.

Philip: He was from Bethsaida, another town on the coast of the Sea of Galilee.

Bartholomew: His contribution to the mission isn't spoken about. There aren't any stories about him in the Bible apart from being on the list of the Twelve. Since the ninth century, some people have wondered if he's the Nathanael mentioned in John 1:45–51 because Nathanael is a normal first name and Bartholomew was more likely a surname.

Matthew: Known as Levi was a tax collector. Tax collectors were hated for their greediness by many.

And then we have **Thomas:** or " the twin" in Aramaic. He is referred to as "doubting Thomas" because he doubted Jesus' resurrection until he could touch Jesus' wounds himself that Sunday evening after the first Easter.

James: This man, who was the son of Alpheus, and brother of John was called "James the Younger" — not to be confused with James the Elder ...or James, brother of Jesus. (James was obviously a popular name at the time!)

Thaddeus: There's a bit of controversy when it comes to this 11th disciple. In Mark and Matthew, he's called Thaddeus. Luke, on the other hand, calls this man Jude, son of James.

Simon ...the Zealot.

And finally... **Judas Iscariot:** He's the one who betrayed Jesus to the authorities. It was written that someone had to betray Jesus and I always wondered if Judas was chosen because he loved Jesus so much that he would do anything for him – even betray Him, if he was asked to do so by Jesus Himself. I hope he repented and is in heaven.

Over time, the importance of the first 12 disciples may have begun to dwindle as each one died; and because of changing leadership patterns in the church, perhaps traditions about the lesser-known ones have been lost. Another reason the Twelve, as a group, may not have loomed so large at the end of the first century has to do with their roles, for they were not the focus of the Gospel; Jesus was. The gospel reports that their mission was to preach to Israel, and later to judge the 12 tribes of Israel at the end of times. By the late first century, when the gospels were written, the Gospel message was no longer being preached just to Israel, but to the entire known world. Although it took time for Jesus' message to get through, upon His death, resurrection, and assertion into heaven, these disciples picked up His mantle and preached the Gospel of Christ to the known world. And as we know, the words of Christ and the Good News about forgiveness and eternal life are still being spoken today. Not just by those who speak from our pulpits, but also by you, his modern-day disciples.

You spread the love of Jesus every time you are kind to someone, every time you help feed the hungry or help clothe those in need. Every time you tell someone the stories of Jesus. They must be told so that each new generation will remember. And when this happens, the truth goes on and on and on. Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. He sits at the right of our Father in Heaven and He has sent his Holy Spirit to us to be our guide in this world, and one day lead us home. One day he will come again, *just as He promised*. He doesn't want us to be afraid or to worry about the things of this world because He has overcome the world.

In John 14, Jesus shows us that the way to eternal life is secure; as secure as your trust in Him. He says this...

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions if it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me so that where I am, you also shall be. And You know the way to the place where I am going."

But Thomas, his disciple, said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus looked him right in his eyes and said...

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known my Father as well. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.

The twelve disciples would later be sent out by Jesus to become the first evangelists of the Christian church, which is what the word "apostle" means. The stem of the word "apostle" means to send out, and that's exactly what Jesus did. In Mark and Luke's Gospels, Jesus chose twelve from his band of disciples and they became his apostles. Matthew 28:19-20 contains what has come to be called The Great Commission."

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus gave this command to the apostles shortly before He ascended into heaven, and it essentially outlines what Jesus expected the apostles and those who followed them, to do.

It is interesting that, in the original Greek, the only specific command in Matthew 28:19-20 is to "make disciples." The Great Commission instructs us to make disciples while we are going throughout the world and while we are going about our daily activities. How are we to make disciples? By baptizing them and teaching them all that Jesus commanded. "Make disciples" is the command of the Great Commission. Many feel that Acts 1:8 is part of the Great Commission as well,

"you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The Great Commission is enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are to be Christ's witnesses, fulfilling the Great Commission in our cities, in our states, in our country, and anywhere else God sends us; even to the ends of the earth.

The twelve disciples were ordinary men who God chose to do extraordinary things. Among the twelve was a revolutionary, a tax collector, and a bunch of fishermen. The Gospels record the constant failings, struggles, and doubts of these twelve men who followed Jesus Christ. After witnessing Jesus' life, death, and resurrection as well as his ascension into heaven, the Holy Spirit transformed his disciples into powerful men of God who turned the world upside down. What was the change in their lives? They had been with Jesus.

May the same be said, of us.

In his name we pray.
So Be It. Amen.



“ZOOM” Worship every Sunday @ 11am

Order of Worship and sign-in information
are on pages 9-12

Click on this link (or copy it into your browser):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85010951342?pwd=NldWQnlQUmRBQ0hRbWdERVN3VitLdz09>

END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS

Church giving statements will be mailed out soon showing your contributions during 2020. If you have any questions concerning your giving for 2020, please contact Donna Beltz through the church office, 302-328-2207.



Music for January 24

-- Bill Mathews, Director of Music Ministries

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name is one of our most well-known hymns – but did you know it's connected to three different tunes? When I was growing up in the Presbyterian Church, our hymnal had two of them – “Coronation” and “Miles Lane.” But when the First Methodist Church of Rahway NJ called me to my first position as an organist and choir director, I discovered that their 1964 hymnal had three! The one I didn't know, “Diadem,” was difficult to sing and just as difficult to play – but the congregation loved it. Later, I was called to another church and the “Diadem” tune disappeared from my repertoire until the 1990's when the church I was serving purchased a new hymnal. Then, when I came to NCUMC for my audition, the “Diadem” tune was on the list to play... I explained to those in attendance that night that I was going to play both tunes on alternate verses – “Diadem” with its flowing lines that interchange with accented quarter notes on the words “Crown Him!” – and “Coronation,” with its stately marching tune. I found out later that “Diadem” was a favorite of our choir, so for our opening hymn this week, we bring you *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* sung to “Diadem” and “Coronation.”

- ***All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*, UMC Hymnal no. 155 (“Diadem”)**
from the BBC music program, “Songs of Praise”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9voJsbicG9M>
- ***All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*, UMC Hymnal no. 154 (“Coronation”)**
First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, Nebraska
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=VYqLyTPw58o>

Verse 1

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.

Verse 2 (not sung in this version of “Diadem”)

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.

Verse 3

Let every kindred, every tribe
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.

Verse 4

O that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.

Verse 2 in this version of “Diadem”

(not sung in this version of “Coronation”)

Crown him, ye martyrs of your God, who from his altar call;
extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.

- *music continues on the next page*

In Pastor Ray's message this week, he offers a bit of a "meet and greet" with the disciples. We'll continue getting to know them with a song found in our supplemental hymnal, "The Faith We Sing." In 1986, Sr. Suzanne Toolan of the North American Sisters of Mercy published the folk-hymn, *Two Fishermen*. The verses are written as a narrator and the refrain is the voice of Jesus calling us to "come and follow me." In the first verse, the narrator speaks of Jesus calling two fishermen, Peter and Andrew, who lived along the Sea of Galilee. In verse 2, we hear of Jesus walking along the shoreline where he finds James and John. The narrator then recalls when Jesus called Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John the beloved one, saying that they "heard Christ's call to speak good news revealed to God's own Son." And while they were not among the 12, Susanna, Mary, and Mary Magdalene are also introduced – a nod to the many women in the Bible who "ministered to him with joy." In the last verse, the narrator summons us to "follow Jesus' way" and "leave behind what keeps you bound to trappings of our day ... for still he speaks in varied ways to those his call will hear."

- ***Two Fishermen, "The Faith We Sing" Hymnal no. 2101***
sung by Brent Holl, from his album, "Hymns for the Young in Spirit"
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=scxYaJGqXQ8>

Verse 1

Two fishermen, who lived along the Sea of Galilee, stood by the shore to cast their nets into an ageless sea.

Now Jesus watched them from afar then called them each by name; it changed their lives, these simple men; they'd never be the same.

"Leave all things you have and come and follow me."

Verse 3

O Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John beloved one, you heard Christ's call to speak good news revealed to God's own Son.

Susanna, Mary, Magdalene who traveled with your Lord, you ministered to him with joy for he is God adored.

"Leave all things you have and come and follow me."

Verse 2

And as he walked along the shore 'twas James and John he'd find, and these two sons of Zebedee would leave their boats behind.

Their work and all they held so dear they left beside their nets.

Their names they'd heard as Jesus called; they came without regret.

"Leave all things you have and come and follow me."

Verse 4

And you, good Christians, one and all who'd follow Jesus' way, come leave behind what keeps you bound to trappings of our day,

And listen as he calls your name to come and follow near, for still he speaks in varied ways to those his call will hear.

"Leave all things you have and come and follow me."



✓ **Food Closet Needs**

- ✓ Instant oatmeal packets
- ✓ Peanut Butter & Jelly
- ✓ Ramon Noodles
- ✓ Canned Fruit
- ✓ Canned Tuna
- ✓ 1 lb Bag of Rice or Rice a Roni

And remember, store brands are always acceptable.



Tristan Beeson, Pam Whary's nephew, and the Fire Company he's associated with, affected by COVID

The family of Paul Coffin, Michelle Jordan's godfather, who passed away on January 20

Cheryl Coffin, Michelle Jordan's godmother

James Costenbader, Anita and Hoover Counterman's son-in-law

The family of Joanne Davis, who passed away on January 15

Barbara Gordon

Richard Hastings

Jerry and Sally Knotts

Carol Lucier, Sharon and Curt Kimmel's neighbor

Tammy McAleese

Doris Murphy, friend of Eva Taylor

Ron Pochvatilla

Joan Skilton's daughter, Sue, and her family

Janet Stutzman

Margaret Weyl

Greyson, a 3-year-old boy diagnosed with neuroblastoma.

Those diagnosed with the coronavirus and the families of those who have lost loved ones

The staff and the patients of our nursing homes

The homeless

Those who struggle with addiction

If you have someone that you'd like included on our Prayer List, please let us know by contacting either Doris Poultney, Prayer Chain Coordinator, @ 302-378-1184, or Pastor Ray @ 302-740-3932 or snowman3girls@gmail.com



New Castle
United Methodist Church
 "Zoom" Worship Service
 January 24, 2021 at 11am
 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

If you have a computer, smartphone, or tablet...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85010951342?pwd=NldWQnlQUmRBQ0hRbWdERVN3VitLdz09>

For those using a regular phone... the number for our Zoom Worship is (301) 715-8592.
 Remember... the phone number is long-distance and you should be sure your phone plan covers it.

Meeting ID: 850 1095 1342

Passcode: 12345. On a computer, then hit "Enter." On a phone, then hit "#".

Order of Worship

The Greeting

Pastor Ray Eck

Introit: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

Bill Mathews

Verse 1

I have decided to follow Jesus,
 I have decided to follow Jesus,
 I have decided to follow Jesus –
 No turning back, no turning back.

Verse 2

The world behind me, the cross before me...
 No turning back, no turning back.

Verse 3

Though none go with me, still I will follow...
 No turning back, no turning back.

... "The Faith We Sing," no. 2129

- ...our service continues on the next page

Call to Worship

Pastor Ray and Carolyn Travers, Liturgist

Pastor: God called Jonah to get up, go to Nineveh and proclaim God's word.

Liturgist: But Jonah refused, until God called him a second time.

Pastor: God is persistent. He believes in those that He has called.

Liturgist: Jesus called the disciples by the lakeshore.

Pastor: They left their families and jobs to follow Him.

Liturgist: Lord, give us courage to follow you all the days of our lives. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Carolyn Travers

O God, you are our light and our salvation. Living in your presence, we have nothing to fear.

Open our hearts to your Word this day. As we hear the story of the call of the first disciples, make us ready to follow Jesus on whatever path he leads us. Cast aside our fears and doubts and teach us to trust wholly in you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

A TIME OF SHARING

Please "unmute" your device as we enter our time of prayer.

Our Joys and Concerns

Pastor Ray

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Please place your device back on "mute after the Lord's Prayer."

Today's Scripture Lessons

Carolyn Travers

Matthew 4:18-21

John 1:41-51

There were Twelve Disciples Jesus called to help him.

Simon Peter, Andrew, James, his brother John,
Phillip, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alpheus,
Thaddeus, Simon, Judas, and Bartholomew.

Jesus calls us, too. Jesus calls us, too.

We are his disciples. Jesus calls us, too.

Jesus calls us, too. Jesus calls us, too.

We are his disciples. Jesus calls us, too.

Liturgist: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks Be to God, Amen!

Special Music: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Curt Kimmel

words by Thomas O. Chisholm, music by William M. Runyan

- *...our service continues on the next page*

The Message: "The Calling of the 12"

Pastor Ray

Closing Hymn: *The Summons*

Bill Mathews

Verse 1

Will you come and follow me if I but call
your name?
Will you go where you don't know and
never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let
My name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you
in me?

Verse 3

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your
name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never
be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as
this unseen?
And admit to what I mean in you and you
in me?

Verse 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?

Verse 4

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but
call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never
be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to
reshape the world around?
Through my sight and touch and sound in
you and you in me?

Verse 5

Lord, your summons echoes true when You but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me

... "The Faith We Sing," no. 2130

- ...our service continues on the next page

Benediction

Pastor Ray

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling
and present you before his glorious presence
without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior,
be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
before all ages, now and forevermore. Amen!

Jude 24-25

A Closing Thought***Do not be afraid. God is with you!******That is the Good News.******You do not have to go through life alone,
wondering if anyone cares about you
or knows your heart.******God knows and God loves you.******Rejoice for thus it is, has always been,
and will continue to be.******God's love for you is eternal.******God loves you and so do I.******Amen.***