

Service for Week 12th -18th Jan 2026

by Chaplain Andy

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you call us, as you called your first disciples, to follow you: not simply to believe, but to keep on following wherever you lead.

Help us not to allow ourselves to become distracted, not to lose heart so that we wander away from you.

Keeping faith always so that we will find the path once more and continue safely on our way to our journey's end.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven.....

Amen

Bible Reading John 1:35-42

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

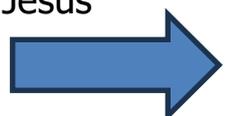
Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Between the accounts of Jesus's birth in Bethlehem, and when he started his ministry, we don't know very much about Jesus's life. It is thought that the young Jesus growing up learned something about his father's trade. It also seems that Jesus did not attend full-time training to become a Rabbi but it was the custom for boys to attend school in the synagogue, and learning there usually meant memorizing by constant repetition.

Rabbis then were like itinerate preachers or pastors today in that they almost always had an occupation from which they gained their livelihood. It has been assumed Jesus worked during this time with his father, the Greek translation suggests he was also possibly a stonemason and builder. This gives us a picture then of the young man Jesus working with his father and becoming known as 'the carpenter's son'

The gospels tell us that after Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, Jesus



starts to gather disciples to follow him and help him in his ministry. From the accounts we know that they did this very willingly, as they connected with Jesus a man who was not unlike them, he was from a modest background, was determined and knew the scriptures in depth. But they also must have recognised that Jesus was in one important way very different to them.

Jesus had what we would call 'charisma' – a special personal appeal that gave him authority. That appeal which we know to be of God was a quality that made the disciples want to get to know Jesus and to be with him. "Where are you staying?" they asked him. They, no doubt, had met many Rabbis but they felt there was something very special about this man Jesus. It was a feeling that must have been so strong, because they very quickly decided to join and follow Jesus despite having to leave their families and give up their jobs.

If we read the New Testament gospels or listen to our bible readings in church services, we can also experience the personal appeal of Jesus Christ that those first disciples felt. It was to enable that personal connection with all of us that God came in Jesus. From Jesus' life and teachings, we learn the truth about God's love and forgiveness. Jesus' death on the Cross came about through evil intent which is and always

was part of our world and exists because God gave us free will.

Jesus could have avoided Jerusalem, avoided suffering and death but that was his mission. "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Jesus said. Why did God not save Jesus from dying on the Cross? Because God, through Jesus' death and resurrection showed us just how much he loves us. He showed us that the relationship he has with us does not end when we die, but continues forever. If we acknowledge our wrongdoing our souls are reunited with God, just as Jesus after his death and after appearing to the disciples, returned to God.

Jesus was born in a bare stable and had a very modest upbringing. A person like us but who was extraordinary as he was God in a human form. Being able to connect with Jesus brings us into a wonderful personal relationship with God which is eternal.

Amen

Closing Prayer

May the word of God guide my footsteps, the power of God equip me for service, the grace of God renew me and the love of God surround me always.

May Christ be my constant companion on the path to discipleship, until my journey is over and I can rest secure in the joy of his eternal kingdom. **Amen**

Prayers inspired by 'Prayerfully Yours' by Nick Fawcett