

15 Jan 2023

Worship Sheet for Sunday 15 January Come and see

Andrew and Simon Peter – familiar names of the first disciples. But they had to meet Jesus before they could tell others. They had been followers of John. In this passage we have Andrew introducing his brother Simon Peter to Jesus – and Philip issuing the invitation “Come and see” to Nathaniel. How are we going to respond to our invitations – and pass them on?

Call: Welcome to church: not a place, but an invitation; not a building, but a way of engaging; not a service, but a way of serving; not an institution, but a path to adventure. And if anyone asks “why?” or “how?” or “what does it all mean?” simply use Jesus’ own words: “Come and see”.

Pray : Help us to wait patiently for you, Lord, to be on the look out for opportunities to hear your voice, to sense your leading, to see you at work and to respond to your call. The world can be very busy, we can be too busy – it is all too easy to let other things crowd you out. Forgive us our shortcomings, our carelessness, the ease with which we let things slip. Remind us of your Son’s promise to be with us always, to send his Spirit to draw us near, to equip us to love and serve, to be with you in love and grace. Grant us a greater awareness of how you really want to be with us in our daily lives, to be part of them, to enable us to make them part of your overall plan for us, those around us, our communities, the world, your kingdom! Help us to think bigger, to make room for your wonderful design for us, for humanity. And if it begins with something simple like “Come and see” so be it. Draw near to us that we might draw near to you and enable us to worship you in spirit and in truth not only with words in Church but with the service of our lives. We pray together saying Our Father...

Reading John 1: 35-51 Come and see.

Thought Most of us like to receive invitations particularly to a special event – perhaps a special birthday, a wedding or a family gathering – for some, possibly a gig or party. You might have a concern about the timing or what to wear or who will be there or what it might cost – but on the whole invitations are positive and to be appreciated. There were so many functions curtailed or cancelled in the last couple of years or so that it is good to be able to contemplate getting back together and marking special occasions. What is it that REALLY matters about invitations? Ok the setting does matter a bit – I wouldn’t be too keen on the Get me out of here jungle – no matter who was with me (anyway most of my family and friends aren’t into creepy crawlies) but actually it is PEOPLE who matter more – who is the invitation from, who is it for? Invitation is a key part of faith. The trouble is that we’ve confused inviting to meet PEOPLE (and most especially Jesus) with PLACE – a particular Church or meeting. The early disciples had heard about Jesus, seen him from a distance, were interested but it took one of them to “Go and see” and to then invite others to “Come and see”. Yes, we’ve to make our churches welcoming places but actually our invitations shouldn’t really stop at inviting people to Church or a meeting but we’ve to get better at introducing people to our friend Jesus. Come and see – Jesus!

Praise CH4 509 Jesus calls us.

Pray Lord, you would think we’d be delighted to receive an invitation to meet with the Lord of lords and King of kings and to pass on the invitation to as many friends and neighbours we could reach but something has gone amiss. Of course, it’s not to a royal garden party – you aren’t into status and show – it’s about service, even self-giving. But we do have a lot to learn. Break down the barriers of our self-consciousness, hesitancy, misjudged priorities, perhaps lack of faith and boost our love for you and our friends and neighbours and our readiness to introduce and invite others to get to know you as friend and saviour. Be with the many in the world as well as locally in the community whose lives are fraught with difficulty and suffering – be with people in the down to earth struggles of family life, work, budgeting and busyness and give them some calm in the midst of storms. As we

move towards a more integrated future give the Montrose congregations of our church a deeper love for Jesus and our neighbours, a focus on what is important in your eyes, a willingness to change and a sensitivity to others' viewpoints – and may we be eager to share in your cause and kingdom. In our prayer walk we pray for those who live or work in Provost Reid's Road. SILENCE. Lord, hear our prayers spoken and unspoken for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Blessing May the Lord bless you. Amen.

Notices

- Messy Church on Sunday 15th at 4pm
- Christian Aid Brunch after the service on Sunday 22nd January
- New Alpha Course begins Monday 23rd January from 7pm in Philos Community Hub. An "Invite your Friends" meal will be the previous Tuesday, 17th January.
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity services – this year in St Mary's and St Peter's at 11am on weekdays 18th-25th for about 15 minutes.
- Communion on Sunday 29th January.

To assist those unable to access material via the internet we have established a phone line where people can phone in to hear the mini service or sermon.

01674 902624.

To hear the mini service people just need to dial in and wait. To hear the sermon, after dialling you need to press 1 then #. In either case there is a few seconds delay while the message loads so tell folk not to hang up! If folk press 1 for the sermon before the intro finishes the system doesn't pick up on it and it defaults to the mini service. The message now says wait until after the tone before pressing 1 but give it a few seconds after that and do press # after pressing 1.

Sermon, prayers and news (or links to them) will be uploaded to our website www.oldandstandrews.com and the Old and St Andrew's Facebook page. Feel free to copy this and pass it on to Church members or friends who might not use the web or social media

Please continue to pray for one another and support where you can and remember that the congregation is united in love wherever we are and however we are worshipping.

Stay safe! May the Lord bless you!

Ian

Rev Dr Ian A McLean