

Church Together

Tell Someone Else About Jesus

19th January 2025



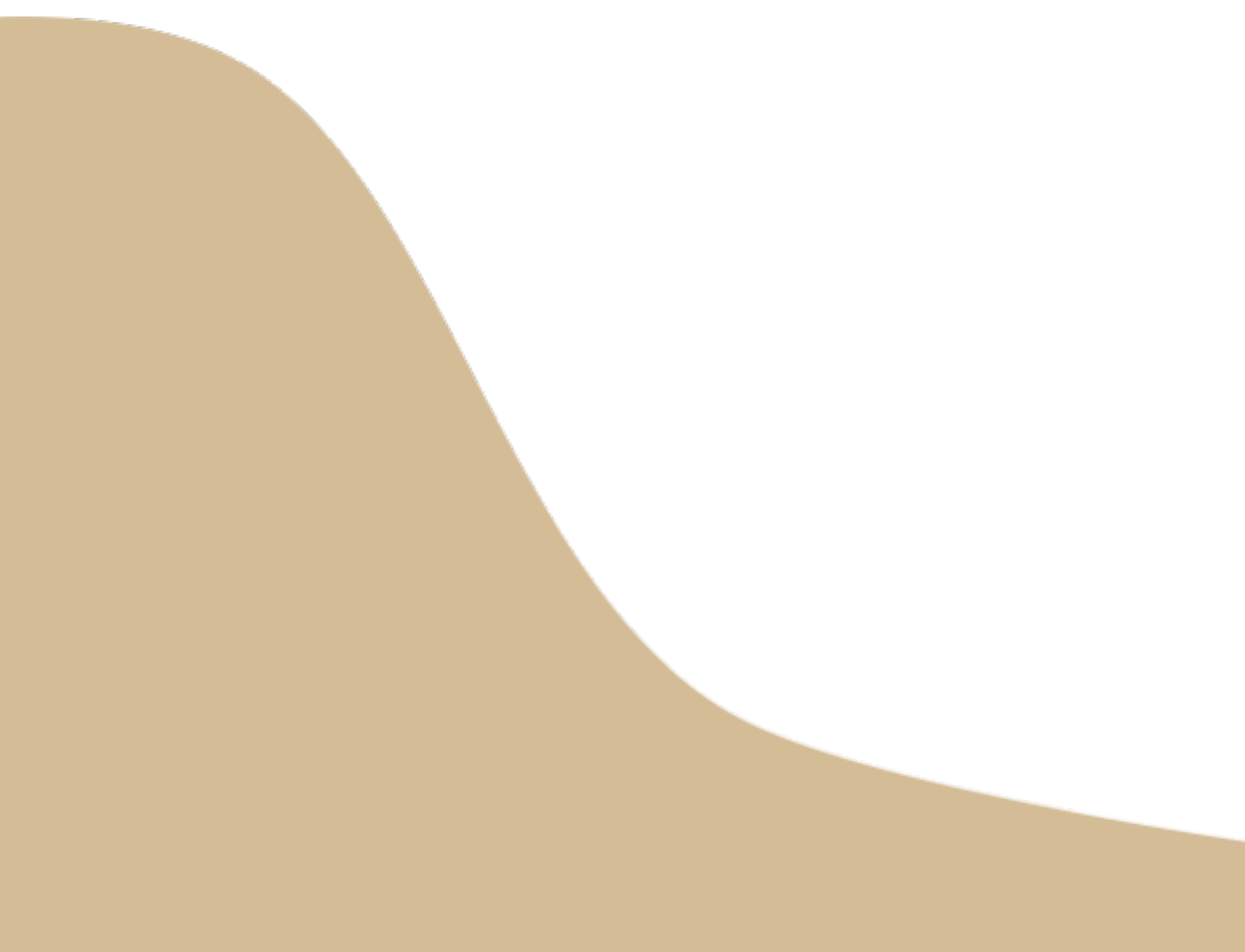
Welcome

In today's Service we will be looking at: **John 1 v. 43 - 51**

The theme for our service today is: **Tell Someone Else About Jesus!**

Today our service also includes: **Communion**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **Share Jesus Confidently With Others**



Call To Worship

Isaiah 40 v. 28 - 31 NLT

Have you never heard?

Have you never understood?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of all the earth.

He never grows weak or weary.

No one can measure the depths of his understanding.

He gives power to the weak
and strength to the powerless.

Even youths will become weak and tired,
and young men will fall in exhaustion.

But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.

They will soar high on wings like eagles.

They will run and not grow weary.

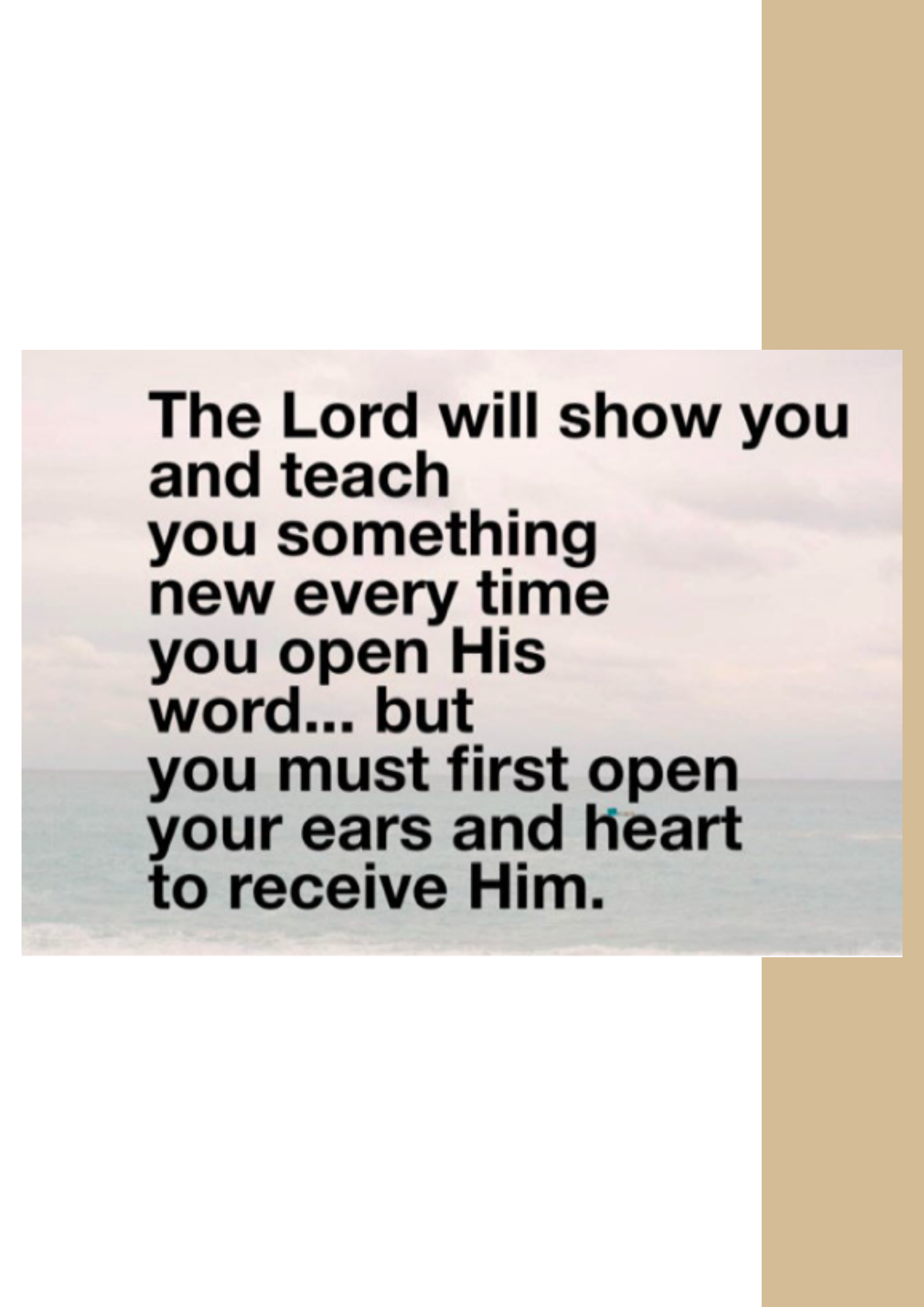
They will walk and not faint.

Opening Prayer

Loving Lord Jesus, whether we have rushed or taken our time in coming to church today, help us we pray to prepare ourselves now to receive all that you will give us this day.

You have invited us to meet with you today; you have created space for time together that will affect all the other moments of the week. You have called us to take time to recall your great love and mercy. However Lord, our minds and thoughts might be elsewhere. We may have lists on our minds of things we want to sort out: of feelings and emotions that seem to overwhelm us. Help us we pray, to spend this time together as we wonder at the scope of your love and grace for us. You care for each of us as if you care for each one alone. Help us to face you today, to receive what you want to give us and wonder at your eternal love.

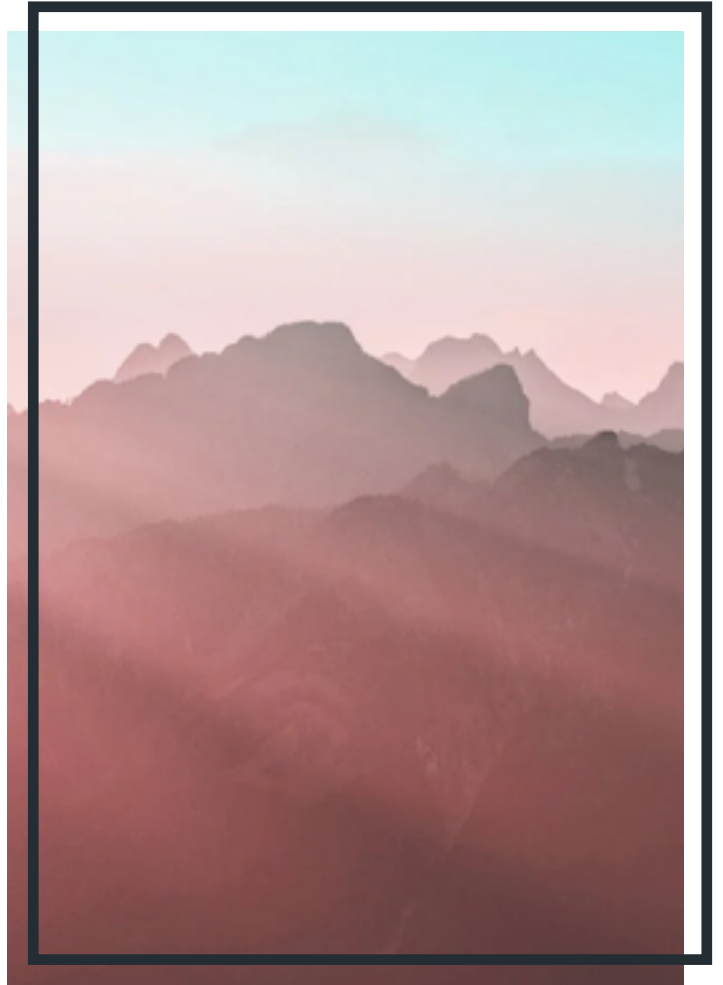
Amen



**The Lord will show you
and teach
you something
new every time
you open His
word... but
you must first open
your ears and heart
to receive Him.**

Song Suggestion

As We Are Gathered, Jesus Is
Here



Bible Reading

John 1 v. 43 – 51 NIV

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee.

Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of

Bethsaida. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We

have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"

Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

48 "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

49 Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

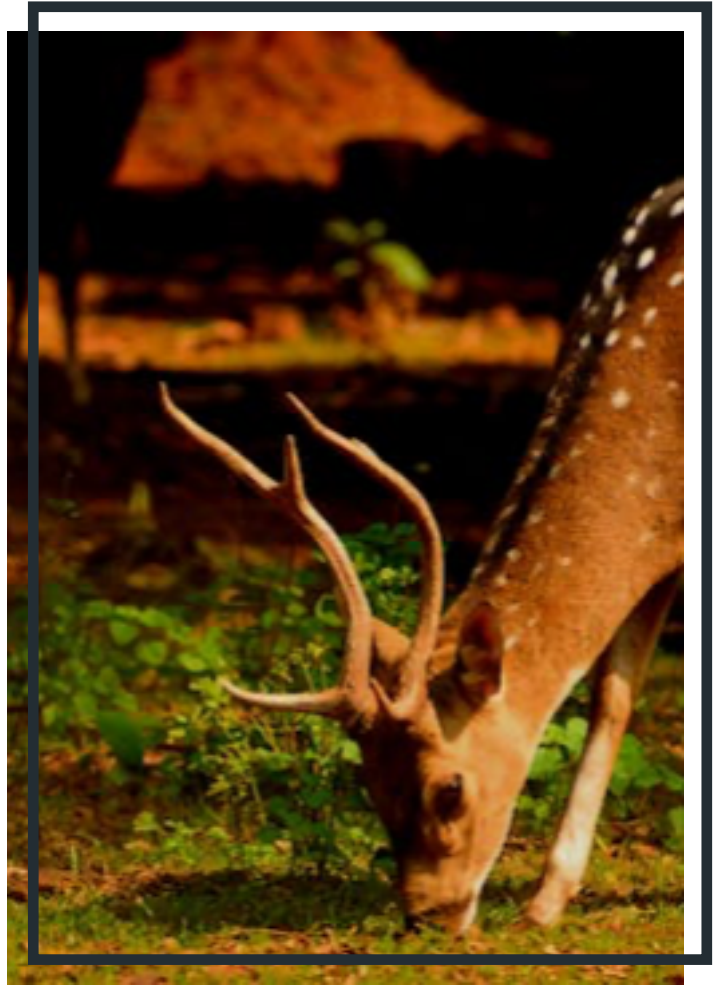
50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." 51

He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.'"

"WHEN **WE GO**
AND TELL OTHERS ABOUT
JESUS, WE ARE FULFILLING
THE MISSION THAT WE ARE
CALLED TO FINISH."

Song Suggestion

As The Deer Pants For The Water



Communion

Jesus said: 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty'. **Romans 5 v. 8** also tells us: 'God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us'.

An Invitation to the Table:

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body, his People.

A prayer of Approach:

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secret is hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

As we prepare to receive the bread and the cup, we hear the words of The Institution:

The Apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper, when he says: 'For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night that he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: 'This is my body

that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me'. In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **1 Corinthians 11 v. 23 - 26**

A Prayer of Thanksgiving before we eat the bread and drink the cup:

Loving God, we praise and thank you for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for his life and ministry, announcing the good news of your kingdom and demonstrating its power in the lifting of the downtrodden, and the healing of the sick, and the loving of the loveless. We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross, for the redemption of the world, and for your raising him to life again, as a foretaste of the glory we shall share. We give you thanks for this bread and wine, symbols of our world and signs of your transforming love. Send your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we might be renewed into the likeness of Jesus Christ and formed into his body. This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

WE NOW SHARE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND SHARE AND DRINK OF THE CUP

A Final Prayer of Acclamation:

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate. Your resurrection we confess. Your final coming we await. Glory be to you, O Christ. Amen.

Church Together

Thought

Nathaniel couldn't believe that the Messiah would come from Nazareth. Nathaniel was prejudiced. He came from Cana, which was another town in Galilee. Galileans were hated by the Judaeans, and Galileans hated people who came from Nazareth. The reason might be because Nazareth was an insignificant village that didn't have prophetic importance. Today, many people allow their minds to be filled with prejudice against religion, and they pronounce their prejudice without examining the subject. The invitation to come and see is an invitation to join Jesus as He walks in the footsteps of the poor and stands in solidarity with those who suffer from systems of injustice and prejudice.

Galileans were frequently looked down on by the more sophisticated Jews in Judea, it also appears that even fellow Galileans looked down on the residents of Nazareth. Nathanael was ready to dismiss Jesus simply because of what he presumed was the city of Jesus' origin. Philip responds with a challenge though: **'Come and see for yourself'**. Nazareth might be the despised city Nathanael thought it was, but there is an exception to every rule. Philip's words are not only a challenge to Nathanael but an invitation to everyone who reads these words: Investigate Jesus and his claims for yourself! People do not need to be argued into the kingdom of God. Philip simply told Nathaniel, 'Come and see'. The role

of believers is to introduce people to Jesus, share His story and their stories of what He has done. Philip didn't try to reason with Nathaniel. He asked Nathaniel to go and examine things for himself, to see Jesus, to hear Him speak, to lay aside his prejudices and to judge after he made a fair and candid personal inquiry.

In **John 1 v. 47** we see Jesus pointing out that Nathanael was a man who was transparent in his motives and actions; he had no hidden agenda. Nathanael was willing to examine for himself the claims being made about Jesus even though he was at first sceptical. Jesus saw Nathaniel for who he really was. Nathaniel lived up to everything he saw and did. He was sincere and upright. Jesus knows who people really are. He sees their hearts. He sees their true motives. Jesus is divine, so He sees what we do when we think we're doing it in secret. He sees us even when we don't think He sees us. He sees us in our private devotions, hears our prayers and sees our meditations. He judges our character chiefly by our private devotions. If we have faith in Jesus, it will always be strengthened. If we believe His Word, we will see proof that it is true. Jesus was under God's protection, and His friends will also be protected. God will defend us and save us if we put our trust in Him.

Nathanael realized that Jesus demonstrated supernatural knowledge about where he had been. Jesus 'saw' Nathanael under the fig tree. Jesus' statement along with Philip's earlier declarations seem to have convinced Nathanael instantly of who Jesus was. In **John 1 v. 49**, we are told that Nathanael now respectfully addresses Jesus as '**Rabbi**', but then he goes far beyond what any student would say to his Rabbi: '**you are the Son**

of God; you are the King of Israel'. When he addressed Jesus as the Son of God, Nathaniel didn't understand the full meaning of that title, but he knew that Jesus had an unusual relationship with God. Nathaniel called Jesus the King of Israel, but since Jesus referred to Nathaniel as an Israelite, Nathaniel surrendered to Jesus as his own king. This should encourage all of us to surrender to Jesus as our own king. Clearly, Nathanael was acknowledging Jesus as the promised Messiah and much more.

Nathanael took a step of faith based largely on the miracle of Jesus' supernatural knowledge. Jesus promises that he will see even greater things, including the sign miracles promised in the Old Testament to accompany the Messiah's coming. Jesus is telling Nathanael (and the other disciples) that they will receive heaven – sent confirmation that the one they have believed in as the Messiah is the One appointed and sent by God.

With all of this in mind, why then don't we find it easy to talk about Jesus? More people in the world probably will have heard of him than of the greatest sporting heroes! We need to remember that we are called by Jesus to be his witnesses, just like the disciples were. As Jesus has a heart for us – so we should have a heart for others, telling them of Jesus' love for them as well.

We see in the Gospels Jesus sharing our human lives, caring for human lives, and bearing the sins and needs of human life. That gives us something to talk about! So, what does the story of Philip and Nathaniel tell us about the need to follow Jesus?

FIRSTLY, THERE IS THE 'FOLLOW ME' STATEMENT (John 1 v. 43)

This is the basic call of Jesus to discipleship. Sometimes it comes as part of an initial call to become a follower of Jesus, as here. Sometimes it comes as a recall to an established disciple like Peter in **John 21 v. 19**.

For us today as Christians, we need to share with family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues Jesus' invitation to follow him. If people want to know what God is like, they can look to Jesus. If they want to know what Jesus is like, they should be able to look at His followers. Can people see Christ in us? Seeing Jesus is the most compelling argument that exists for Christianity.

The heart of Christian evangelism is inviting people to come and see Jesus, who is God's gracious Word and flesh for themselves. To come and see those who are inspired by Jesus enough to follow Him. To come and see how God continues to work in the world and in our lives. The invitation to 'come and see' is the only appropriate response to having seen the grace and mercy of God taking shape among us.

SECONDLY, THERE IS ALSO THE 'COME AND SEE' STATMENT (John 1 v. 46)

It seems that Philip had an open heart, mind and mouth as described in **John 1 v. 45**! He was a sharer of good news and so provides for us an example of sharing with other people the good news about Jesus. Today we need to invite people to experience a living relationship with Jesus.

That may begin by inviting them to an event where they can 'come and see' Have you ever used those words to invite friends to come to church with you? Have you ever talked to your friends about Jesus and what He has done in your life? If some laugh and say you're foolish to believe

as you do, don't argue with them. Be friendly and accept them as Jesus does. After a while, your friends may be curious and willing to 'come and see' what church is all about. Best of all, they may come to know Jesus, that is, consider his claims, but exchange of information about him with other people is not enough, they also need to be encouraged to '**come and see**' in the personal commitment sense.

FINALLY, THERE IS THE 'MORE TO BE' STATEMENT (John 1 v. 50)

Nathaniel was impressed with Jesus' knowledge and insight, yet this was only a beginning of what God would be doing through Jesus. When people are led to see Jesus as the Son of God (**John 1 v. 19**), they will grow in experience, knowledge and power through a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Nathaniel would be given far deeper grounds for belief than Jesus' perception of who he is. As Jesus' ministry unfolds, Nathaniel would see mighty works, great and wondrous surprises that would reveal God. We will see the same things when we surrender our lives to Jesus. It's only as we get real and courageously honest with ourselves and God that He can help us become the people He wants us to be. If we live up to all we know, we will know more. If we are all we can be, we will become more.

Nathaniel went on to become a disciple and friend of Jesus. He travelled across India, Armenia, Ethiopia and Southern Arabia, sharing the gospel and drawing people to Jesus. When he encountered Jesus, he stood under a fig tree minding his own business. As he trusted that Jesus knew him inside and out, it changed the direction

of his life.

As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we develop a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and how he works in our lives. Those insights usually come from Scripture, but our experience of walking through life with Christ and learning to trust him in every situation will also help us develop a deeper grasp of who he is and what he stands to do for all those who truly follow him.

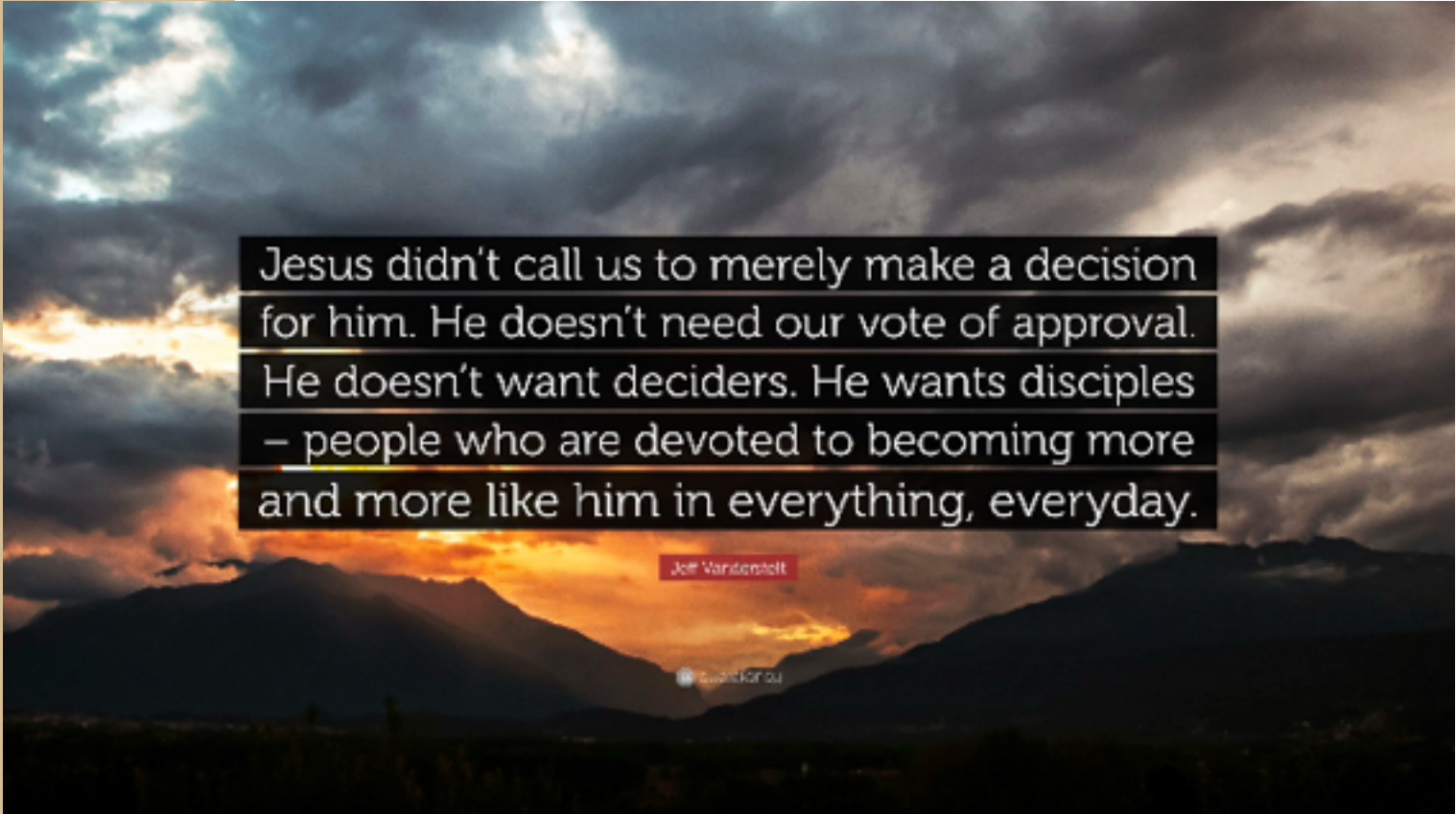
There is always more for us to discover and to do as disciples. The risk is that having started to follow Jesus and having come and seen what he alone can do, we stop, and our spiritual lives just plateau out. This is something that we can't allow to happen, especially if we want others to follow Jesus as well.

The essence of discipleship is to follow Jesus. It's what most of us want for ourselves, our family members and our friends. Life is much better for people when they follow Christ. To be a Christian is to realize that we have been called by God. Called to grace, called to life, called to move. Our proper response is to follow Jesus slowly, perhaps not perfectly, but to try and follow, nonetheless.

Tithes, Gifts & Offerings



If you feel that you are able to, then please keep on giving to the work of the church here at Salendine Nook, with a generous and cheerful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



Jesus didn't call us to merely make a decision for him. He doesn't need our vote of approval. He doesn't want deciders. He wants disciples – people who are devoted to becoming more and more like him in everything, everyday.

Jeff VanDusen

@jeffvandusen

Song Suggestion

Amazing Grace, How Sweet The
Sound



Prayers Of Intercession

Creator God, we give you thanks today for the wonderful gift of life, with all its joys and responsibilities, its experiences and its opportunities. We thank you for good health and daily food, for the shelter and care of our homes, and the love and loyalty of our friends. We thank you for the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and for the forgiveness and salvation that only he can give us. For his presence with us always and for the service into which he has called us. Help us today, we pray, to thank you not only with our lips, in praise and prayer, but also in our lives that are full of hope and love; for you and for each other.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our country and the local community that we are part of. Give wisdom to those who are called to lead us and discernment to those who govern us. Loving Lord, we pray for all those who are facing tough choices at work or in their personal life. Surround them with your love, support them with your strength, console them with your comfort, and give them hope and courage beyond themselves, we pray.

This morning, we also pray for the church, both here at Salendine Nook and wherever the church may be found in your name. We pray for any big issues and decisions that we and others need to make at this time, we pray particularly for the many opportunities that you give to us

to share the Good News of Jesus with others. Take away any fear or hesitancy that we may have in proclaiming that Jesus is Lord of all.

Gracious Lord, we know of many people who are struggling today with illness, crises, big decisions and major changes in their lives. Loving God, we bring them before you this day, knowing that your care and loving compassion is greater than any that we could bring, help us though to show loving concern for them as we now pray, naming them in the stillness and quietness of our hearts.

Each of us this morning Lord, have things on our own mind, perhaps things we hesitate to mention to anyone else. Lord God, you understand us and know us totally, and we believe that you only want the very best outcomes for us. We offer ourselves to you now in the honesty of our own hearts.

These, Lord, are the prayers of your people this morning. We ask you to take each one of these prayers and answer them in your own time and in your own way. And in the meantime give us expectant and trusting hearts. For we ask all of these things in the name of Jesus.

Amen

I HAVE DECIDED TO

follow Jesus

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
And the glory, forever and ever.

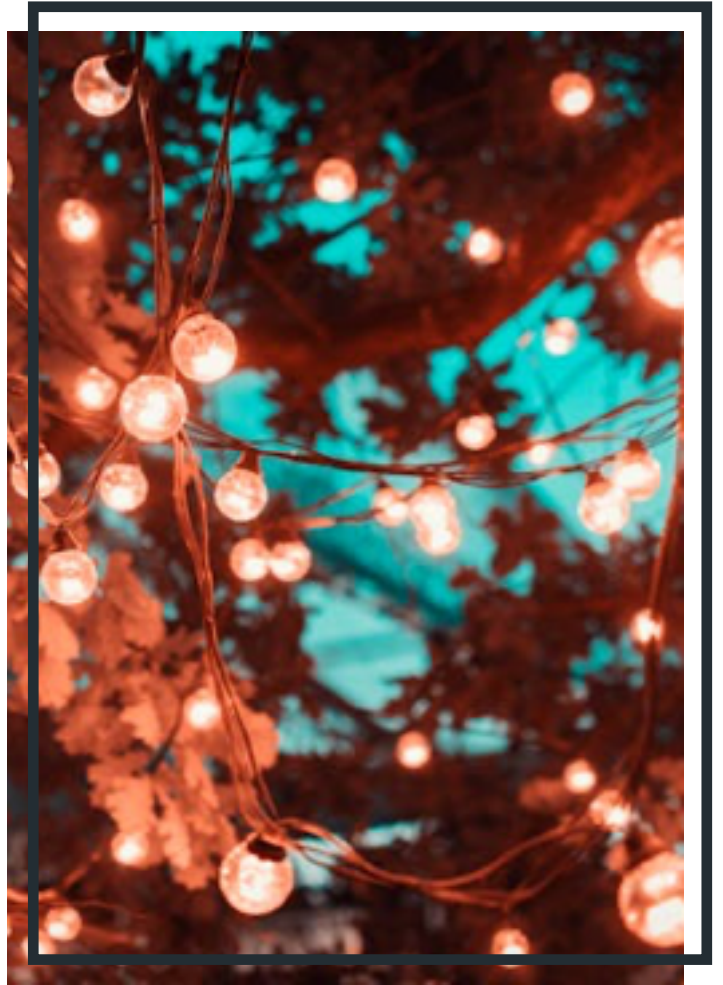
Amen

God Is Calling.
» *will you answer?*



Song Suggestion

Restore, O Lord, The Honour Of
Your Name



Blessing

Now may the Spirit of God,
Who brooded over the waters
And brought order out of chaos,
Find a home in our hearts
And settle our minds, both now
As we leave this place,
And into tomorrow, and may we
Live lives that are worthy
Of the glory of God, our Saviour.

Amen