

The First Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ Stockbridge, Massachusetts

CALLING DISCIPLES SUNDAY

January 26, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

Children are invited to Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. returning to worship after the offering. Nursery care is available during worship; please ask an usher.

Note: We will lift prayers of joy and concern this morning in worship. Prayers may also be submitted in writing. Please give to any Deacon before the time of prayer.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Song of Remembrance, Gilbert Martin

O God of Earth and Altar KING'S LYNN, arr. Mansfield

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

INTROIT

There is a Balm in Gilead, arr. Gervais

Doug Williams, baritone

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elizabeth Young

One: Jesus calls us to praise and prayer, to song and silence;

All: Jesus calls us to worship.

One: Jesus calls us to hearing and healing, to service and solidarity;

All: Jesus calls us to love.

One: Jesus calls us to advocacy and action, to protest and provision;

All: Jesus calls us to justice.

One: Let us heed the call of Christ.

All: Let us worship together with joy.

*HYMN

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

See page 5

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

CONTEMPORARY READING Calling the Disciples, by Lucille Clifton

Elizabeth Young

some Jesus

has come on me

i throw down my nets

into the water he walks

i loose the fish

he feeds to cities

and everyone calls me

an old name

as i follow out

laughing like God's fool

behind this Jesus

*HYMN

You Have Come down to the Lakeshore, vs. 1

See pages 6-7

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 5:1-11

Ronnie Cunningham

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

SERMON Nets Pastor Brent

*HYMN

You Have Come down to the Lakeshore, vss. 2-4

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

Our God, 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Prayer by Hugo Wolf

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY His Eye is On the Sparrow, Gabriel/Martin, arr. Schrader

*DOXOLOGY Tune: Old 100th

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace

Praise God for gifts of joy and love

Praise God for sending Christ to dwell

On earth for us - Emmanuel. Amen.

*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Pastor Brent

pages 6-7

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*SENDING CHARGE from John O'Donohue's blessing, "For Equilibrium"

Donna Jacobs

One: As we celebrate birthdays we remember the year that has been,

All: And we add this blessing to the one about to begin:

One: In this new year of life, "Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore,

All: May the relief of laughter rinse through your soul.

continued

One: As the wind loves to call things to dance,

All: may your gravity be lightened by grace.

One: Like the dignity of moonlight restoring the earth,

All: may your thoughts incline with reverence and respect.

One: As water takes whatever shape it is in,

All: so free may you be about who you become.

One: As silent smiles on the other side of what said,

All: may your sense of irony bring perspective.

One: As time remains free of all that it frames,

All: may your mind stay clear of all it names.

One: May your prayer of listening deepen enough

All: to hear in the depths the laughter of God."

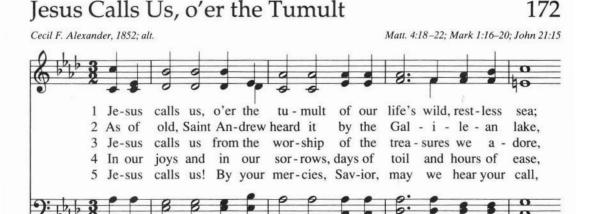
*HYMN God, We Thank You for Our People, vss. 1 & 2 See page 8

*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

*POSTLUDE Draw the Circle Wide Doug Williams, Kids Choir words by Gordon Light, music by Mark Miller

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side. Draw the Circle. Draw the circle wide.

Music Notes ~ Tracy Wilson, Minister of Music pro tem Mark A. Miller believes passionately that music can change the world. He also believes in Cornell West's quote that 'Justice is what love looks like in public.' His dream is that the music he composes, performs, teaches, and leads will inspire and empower people to create the beloved community. Mark serves as Professor of Church Music at Drew Theological School and is a Lecturer in the Practice of Sacred Music at Yale University. He also is the Minister of Music of Christ Church in Summit, New Jersey.





Day by day that voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol - low me." Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake. From each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more." Je - sus calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these." Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.



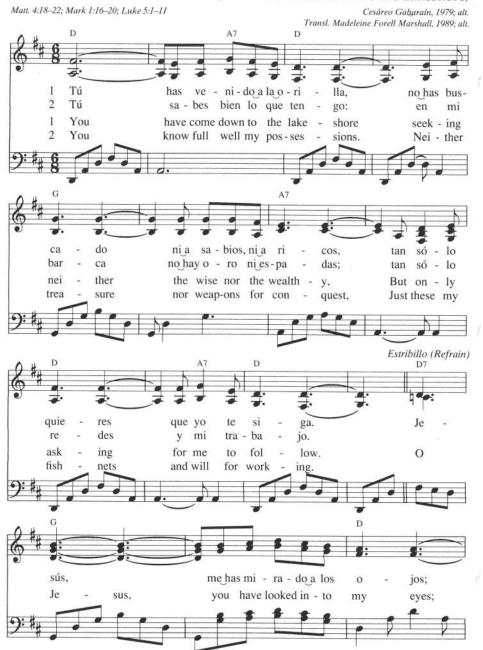
Cecil Alexander, who in Ireland wrote sacred verse to teach children the meaning of the catechism and liturgy, designated this poem for St. Andrew's Day. Many years later Galilee was composed for this text by an English organist, William Jude. Tune: GALILEE 8.7.8.7.
William H. Jude, 1887
Alternate setting: ST. ANDREW

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Doug Williams; Deacons Gary Cilley, Sarah Conly, and Helen McCormick; readers Ronnie Cunningham and Elizabeth Young; fellowship Donna Jacobs; greeter Hannah Fries; storytellers Terry Wise and Charlotte Rodgers. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream, Scarlett Ritcher and Rae Geddes are in the nursery.

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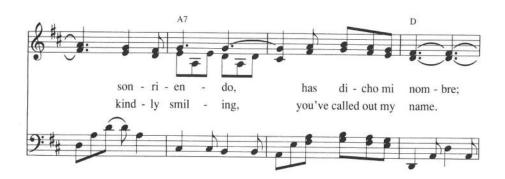
Tú has venido a la orilla

(You Have Come down to the Lakeshore)

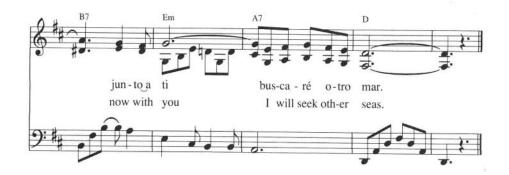


One of the most popular hymns to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious songs in Spain, this text has been translated into nearly eighty languages. The Spanish composer-author was a parish priest known for his work among youth.

Tune: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES 8.10.10. with refrain Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979 Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987







- Tú ne-ce-si-tas mis ma-nos, mi can-san-cio que a o-tros des-can-se, a-mor que quie-ra se-guir a-man-do. Estribillo
- Tú, Pes-ca-dor de o-tros ma-res, an-sia e-ter-na de al-mas que es-pe-ran. A-mi-go bue-no, que a-sí me lla-mas. Estribillo
- You need my hands, my ex-haus-tion, work-ing love for the rest of the wea-ry—

A love that's will-ing to go on lov-ing. Refrain

 You who have fished oth-er wa-ters; you, the long-ing of souls that are yearn-ing:

As lov-ing Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain

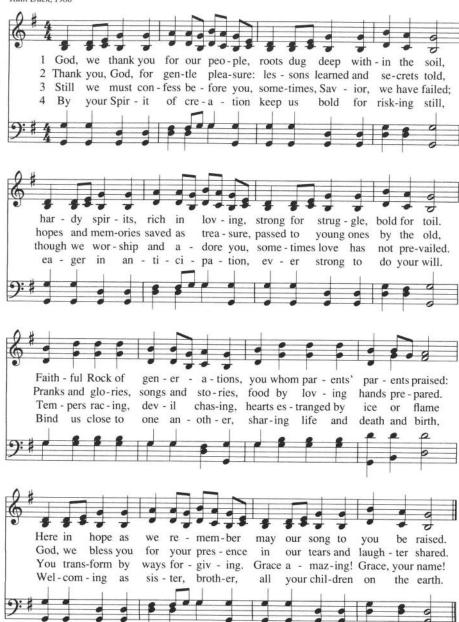
Verses

God, We Thank You for Our People

376

1 & 2

Ruth Duck, 1986



Ruth Duck created this text at the request of Harold (Hal) McSwain, Jr., for a family reunion. She found her inspiration in the stories of Harold, Sr., and in her own family heritage. The hymn speaks to any community that has shared life together for a long time.

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D. William Moore, 1825

The New Century Hymnal (1995)