Epiphany 2, Year B, 17.01.2021

*Come, see, hear*

*John 1.43-51*

*Today we hear about two friends who have an unexpected encounter with Jesus and initially react in very different ways. Together, Philip and Nathanael help each other to understand who Jesus is and they begin a journey that will redefine who they are.*

*Nathanael is surprised that Jesus knows not only his name, but much about him too. Jesus knows each of us as individuals but sometimes, like Nathanael, we can wonder ‘Why would God be interested in me?’ Some of us will be, like Philip, keen to follow straight away. Some of us will be more like Nathanael – full of questions and concerns. This story shows that wherever we are, Jesus finds us and knows us. Are we looking and listening out for him – and helping others to do so?*

**Welcome and introduction**

**Prayer:**

Almighty God, you speak to us in so many ways.  
Help us, in our worship today, to hear your voice and know it is you.  
Speak to us in the silence, through Scripture and by the Spirit.  
Speak through others and through your creation,  
through images, experiences, music and encounters.  
Speak in ways that we can understand.  
So, speak, Lord – and help us to listen.   
**Amen.**

**Hymn All I once held dear**

All I once held dear, built my life upon, all this world reveres and wars to own  
all I once thought gain I have counted loss, spent and worthless now, compared to this

Chorus:

*Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you. There is no greater thing:  
you’re my all, you’re the best, you’re my joy, my righteousness and I love you, Lord*

Now my heart’s desire is to know you more, to be found in you and known as yours.  
To possess by faith what I could not earn, all surpassing gift of righteousness

Oh to know the power of your risen life and to know you in your sufferings,  
to become like you in your death, my Lord, so with you to live and never die.

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh

and splendour of the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Absolution**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins

and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**The****Collect***, the special prayer for today*

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end:  
bring us with the whole creation to your glory,

hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Reading John 1: 43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.’ Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

Address

**Hymn Will you come and follow me?**

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?

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?

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 me?

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?

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.

**Bless the Gifts**

Lord Jesus, you gave everything for us.  
As we give you our gifts, we offer you all that we have, and are, and will be,  
praying that our church, and our mission,  
may reach out so that others may come to share in your risen life.

**Amen.**

**Prayers**

Jesus, Son of God, we pray for our world,  
for those who hold power to make a difference  
in the lives of the poor and voiceless…

Jesus, Son of God, give wisdom and courage,  
**and hear our prayer.**  
  
Jesus, King of Israel, we pray for the Church,  
for those who are exploring faith  
and for those who teach them…

Jesus, King of Israel, give unity and peace,  
**and hear our prayer.**  
  
Jesus, Son of Man, we pray for those in need of healing and restoration…  
and for the bereaved and those who have died in the faith of Christ…

Jesus, Son of Man, give patience and light,  
**and hear our prayer.**  
  
Jesus, Lamb of God, we pray for ourselves,  
for the things we worry about  
and the people we care about…

Jesus, Lamb of God, give hope and understanding,  
**and hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**

**Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*We sing the* ***Lord’s* *Prayer***

**Our Father who art in heaven HBTN**

**Thy kingdom come thy will be done HBTN**

**On earth as it is in heaven HBTN**

**Give us this day our daily bread HBTN**

**Forgive us all our trespasses HBTN**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us HBTN**

**And lead us not into temptation HBTN**

**But deliver us from all that is evil HBTN**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory HBTN**

**For ever and for ever and ever HBTN**

**Blessing**

**Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you.**  
**We go in your name to love you and those we meet,**  
**and to be your light in the world.**   
**Amen.**

and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be amongst you and remain with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

**Hymn I believe in Jesus**

I believe in Jesus. I believe he is the Son of God.  
I believe he died and rose again. I believe he paid for us all  
and I believe he is here now, standing in our midst,  
here with the power to heal now and the grace to forgive

I believe in you, Lord. I believe you are the Son of God.  
I believe you died and rose again. I believe you paid for us all  
and I believe you are here now, standing in our midst,  
here with the power to heal now and the grace to forgive