

**St Nicholas Church
Sunday Service**

15 January 2023



Come, Follow Me.

Matthew 4:19

Song:

Come, Follow Me.

Matthew 4:19

**Will come
and see
the Light?**



Will You Come & See the Light

(VU 96)

~ Words: Brian Wren, 1989;

Music: Traditional Scottish Melody, arr. Valerie Ruddle, 1993




A serene landscape featuring a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a dark, starry night sky. A city skyline is visible in the distance, with lights reflecting on the water. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Come, Follow Me.

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**Prayer
of
Approach**



Prayer
based on
the Lord's
Prayer

Come, Follow Me.

Matthew 4:19



Come, Follow Me.

Matthew 4:19

Bible

Reading

John 1: 43-51



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Hymn/

**Offering: Jesus Calls
us o'er the tumult**



REFLECTION

John's version of events is slightly different than the other three gospels

The Story is just beginning...

John the Baptist pointing to Jesus and encouraging his own disciples to start following Him

The Story is just beginning...

Andrew goes and finds his brother Simon, and brings him to Jesus.

The Story is just beginning...

The wisemen ... bowed in worship before the holy child. They went home by a different way.

The Story is just beginning...

Jesus calls his first disciples

The Story is just beginning...

Philip

The idea of finding and being found

Jesus finds Philip finds Nathanael

Jesus knows Nathanael

Where we see blunt scepticism,
Jesus sees complete
Honesty...

Another theme emerges

It's the theme of seeing and being seen.

It is initiated by Jesus

Jesus sees Nathanael coming towards Him...

It is Jesus who is doing the seeing

Come, Follow Me.

Matthew 4:19

Come to me. Come and see” “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

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**Prayer for offerings
others & ourselves**

We pray for all who are bearing heavy burdens: those facing difficulties and problems to which they can see no solutions, wrestling with inner fears and racked by anxiety for themselves or loved ones; troubled about money, health, work or relationships; all who crave rest for their souls but cannot find it.

We pray for the influence of Your Holy Spirit in the troubled places of the world. Fill us with Your passion for justice that we may strive to build bridges of reconciliation.

Pause

We pray for all who are happy and for whom things are going well, that they may know the source of their blessing.

We pray for all who are distressed. Comfort the sad, be present with the sick and make Your will known to them. Strengthen those who are depressed by failure.

Pause

On the dawn of a new year, we pray for the strength of convictions to the common good for all our leaders. For courage for our international community to address human trafficking. Human traffickers flourish when men, women, and children are forced to flee their homes for their personal safety. In 2022, 100 million people were forced to migrate from their homes. We remember victims of human trafficking, most of whom were recruited by a family member/caregiver, intimate partner, or employer.

Pause

Our dear God, we ask that You will help us to spread Your love to our friends and neighbours. Let us think of one or two particular friends and ask that God will help us tell them the good news.

Pause

Let us think of the people sitting on either side of us and ask that God will be especially close to them.

Pause

We also remember those people who are not with us today, perhaps through illness or because they are on holiday.

Pause

Lord, thank You that You listen to our prayers - spoken and unspoken - in Jesus name. Amen


Closing
Praise:

I the
Lord of see
and sky

Come, Follow Me.

Matthew 4:19





Final Prayer and Blessing

May we follow Your light into all the darkness of the world, overthrowing the old and tired ways, fighting for justice, forging paths to peace, loving those it's hard to love, knowing You go before us and call us to follow.

And may the Grace....