If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the marked basket nearest the exit you use. We look forward to seeing you again next week.

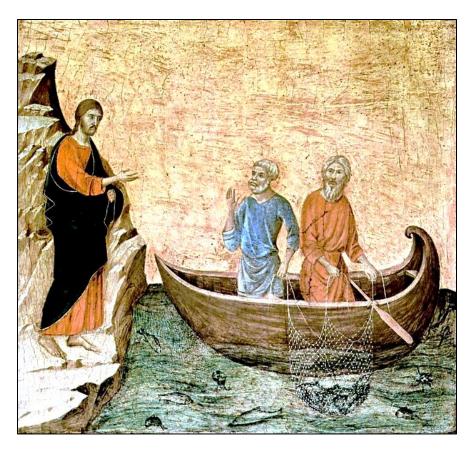
A special thank you to our ushers!

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Margaret Cooper, Beth Foley, Mildred Moore Lopez, Pat K. Rowlett, Carol Taylor, David Taylor

Cover Image: In this panel from the Maesta Altarpiece of Siena now separate and in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the power of "call" is made present. The following description of this back and forth action between Christ, Peter and Andrew comes from one of the spirituality author and BBC religious affairs producer Michael Ford's books, "Song of the Nightingale: a Modern Spiritual Canticle": "In his painting The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew...the great Italian artist Duccio de Buoninsegna shows the brothers like twins, 'a single apostolate with two dimensions.' This insight is helpful in understanding 'the companionship' that exists between my respective dual vocations which have been lived out on the edge of the church, just as Christ calls Peter and Andrew from the shoreline. Yet for all their togetherness and compatibility, there is also aloneness and an uncomfortable sense of difference....a uniqueness that has been divinely bestowed." [pg. 4]

Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes covenant with all believers, First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.



Christ Calling the Apostles Peter and Andrew, Duccio di Buoninsegna, 1308-1311, from Art in the Christian Tradition, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

24 January 2021 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817 A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community • Transforming Lives • Engaging the World

Order of Worship

Prayer of Preparation

Gracious and merciful God, you have called each one of us to be followers of Christ and to be fishers of humanity that all might know your love and salvation. We give you our loving praise. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude O God, Who Gives Us Life

Manz

*Call to Worship

Let us come together and celebrate God's love and grace.

The strength of the Lord is our hope and our salvation.

The powers and the wealth of the world will all pass away,

But the glory of the Lord will endure forever.

Then let us lift our voices in praise and song for God's glory! Let us pray.

You are our rock and strength, and in you rests our deliverance. You defend us amid adversity; you protect us from ultimate harm. You humble the mighty with acts that manifest your transcendent power; the lowly you comfort with your tender embrace. We gather this day, saved by your mercy. Hear now our praises as we herald your greatness. In the name of Jesus Christ, let us worship God!

Anthem Jesus Calls Us Alexander/Jude

Prayer of Confession

God of compassion and mercy, hear us as we make our confession. Christ preaches repentance; we do not heed his call. Your new day is proclaimed; we dwell on the past. We say we obey you; our deeds betray us. In our confession we turn from our evil ways, and we turn toward you asking that your grace renew us and cleanse us of sin.

Silent Confession

Summary of the Law

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:37-39

Prayer of Illumination

Lesson Mark 1:14-20

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon Calling the First Disciples

The Rev. Edward Bellis

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Anthem You Walk along Our Shoreline Dunstan/Steurlein

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy Powell