

Poole Bay Methodist Circuit Worship**Sunday 18th January 2026****Come and See! - Led by Reverend Sarah Knebel**

Hello and welcome to this time of worship. In our reading today people are invited to 'Come and see, Jesus'. How would we describe Jesus today? Who are we inviting people to 'Come and see', when we want people to get to know who we believe in?

Prayer:

As we begin our worship, let's pray:

Welcoming Lord,
you invite us to come and meet with you,
to come and see and get to know you.
You invite us to stay and eat with you,
to spend time in your company;
to talk a while, to laugh, to cry,
to share our fears and joys.
Friend, comforter, helper, challenger, guide,
thank you that we can drawer close to you here.

Faithful Lord,
we worship you,
for the love you give to us and to people everywhere,
and for calling us to come and see and hear.

As we read your word, as we think about what it means to introduce others to you,
open our minds and our hearts to you, we pray,
Amen.

During this time of worship we come to rejoice in the Word made Flesh. We come to hear God's voice speaking to us. Open your ears, open your eyes, open your hearts, open your minds, and may God fill your souls with the living presence of Jesus Christ.

StF 354 - Jesus is the name we honour

1 Jesus is the name we honour;
Jesus is the name we praise.
Majestic name above all other names,
the highest heav'n and earth proclaim
that Jesus is our God.

*We will glorify,
we will lift him high,
we will give him honour and praise.
We will glorify,
we will lift him high,
we will give him honour and praise.*

2 Jesus is the name we worship;
Jesus is the name we trust.
He is the King above all other kings,
let all creation stand and sing
that Jesus is our God.

3 Jesus is the Father's splendour;
 Jesus is the Father's joy.
 He will return to reign in majesty,
 and every eye at last will see
 that Jesus is our God.

Philip Lawson-Johnston
 Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 354

Activity:

As we begin thinking about who Jesus is, I would like to invite you to imagine for a moment, that you were to write a description of Jesus for someone else, what would you include?

Reading: John 1: 29-42

Our reading for today is taken from John 1: 29-42. As we listen to it, how many names, titles or descriptions for Jesus can we spot in it? You may like to jot them down as you hear or read them ...

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

... How many titles or descriptions did you find? What were they?

With Jesus there is no one, carefully crafted image. Andrew and the other disciple are so intrigued by the person John revealed to them that they chose to follow Jesus, who invited them to spend a day with him. So impressed was Andrew by what he saw, that he brought his brother Peter to meet Jesus too. In Jesus, they found a truly authentic experience, personal to each one of them, and they shared their experience of Jesus with others. Do we do the same when we talk about Jesus? Or do we choose what we talk about, what we include, what we leave out, or even if we talk about Jesus at all?

Prayer:

Jesus, sometimes you call us, and we do not listen.
 Sometimes we know you want to hold us close and care for us, but we push you away.
 Sometimes we try to hide from others who you really are, just as we hide our full identity from others.
 We are sorry for those times when we are just too busy to remember you,
 for those times when we turn away from you,
 and all that you want us to be,
 and for the opportunities we miss to share our faith in you with others.

[...]

Jesus,
 Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
 by your sacrifice on the cross,
 we have been made whole in you,
 and you invite us to walk with you fresh each day.
 Thank you for always forgiving us
 and for calling us back to you again,
 for wiping the slate clean,
 and enabling us to begin afresh with you.
 Amen.

StF 363: My Jesus, My Saviour

My Jesus, my Saviour,
 Lord there is none like you.
 All of my days I want to praise
 the wonders of your mighty love.
 My comfort, my shelter,
 tower of refuge and strength,
 let every breath, all that I am,
 never cease to worship you.

*Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing,
 power and majesty, praise to the King.
 Mountains bow down
 and the seas will roar
 at the sound of your name.
 I sing for joy at the work of your hands.
 Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
 Nothing compares to the
 promise I have in you.*

Darlene Zschech (b.1965)
 Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 363

A Reflection: Come and see!

In our reading, John the Baptist gives Jesus a new title that does not appear elsewhere in the Gospels – he calls Jesus 'the Lamb of God' and points him out to his own followers, saying 'behold', 'look', here is the real deal. There is a visionary quality to the way that John the Baptist was able to recognise Jesus – John had been waiting for the Holy Spirit to descend on one person he baptised. When he sees Jesus again in the street, he declares that Jesus is the Lamb of God, who will take away the 'sin of the world'. On hearing John's exclamation John's disciples, Andrew and an unnamed other, begin to follow Jesus down the street. Jesus' reaction? He asks a penetrating question, 'What are you looking for?' A guiding question for all of us. 'What are we looking for?' He then invites them to come to his home and see. Remaining with him for the rest of the day, they choose a lifelong journey of following him.

They followed him. It wasn't that Jesus called Andrew, his companion and then others to save the world through their own heroic performance, just as Jesus doesn't expect that of us either. Rather, Jesus invited them to follow him. It meant being with him, sharing his life, his mission. It meant patterning their lives on his and taking his choices as the model for their choices, his guiding principles as theirs. His choices were sometimes risky and often costly. They would see him prioritising compassion over pleasing others, as when he healed on the Sabbath; speaking to the realities of the human condition and showing divine grace when a woman was dragged before him by a baying mob and choosing to exercise the kind of power baffling to hard-bitten rulers. Yet on the basis of

this meeting, Andrew chooses to follow and furthermore makes the time to talk to his brother Simon, assuring him 'We have found the Messiah.'

The Franciscan Richard Rohr makes the provocative statement, 'Worship of Jesus is rather harmless and risk-free, choosing to follow and following Jesus changes everything.' Can we imagine ourselves into the situation of following Jesus down the street, then meeting and sitting at the table with him, then telling someone else about meeting him? How are the experiences of the first disciples reflected in our experiences? What were they looking for? What are we looking for? And what are the people around us looking for today? Assuming we know, how might we then effectively bring Jesus into our conversations? How do we begin speak into the realities of today's human conditions and bear witness to a God who still meets people's needs?

Well perhaps we should start with the words 'Let me show you', just as Jesus started with the words 'Come and see', sharing with openness, honesty and compassion examples of how Jesus meets our needs and the needs faced by human hearts today.

Activity:

Think back for a moment ... Who was it who first shared with you about Jesus? And what made you want to find out more?

As our service comes to an end, what image do you have of Jesus in your head, or is there something that stands out in your mind from our service today?

What would you tell others about Jesus?

And then thinking about the people you will meet this week, who will you tell?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, King of Earth and Heaven,
we pray for your whole creation.
We pray for all we do not know and are yet to meet,
and for those far away who we may never meet, thinking especially of places where there is conflict or where people are struggling to survive for whatever reason.

In silence, we pray too for all who we know are in need of our prayer at this time.

[...]

We pray for the conversations we will have this week and ask that you will help us, through our words and our actions to tell everyone about your love for them.

We give to you, God, each of the people and the places we are praying for, knowing that you hear our prayers.
Amen.

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.

And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

StF 197: Cradled in a manger meanly, laid the Son of Man his head

1 Cradled in a manger, meanly
laid the Son of Man his head;
sleeping his first earthly slumber
where the oxen had been fed.
Happy were those shepherds listening
to the holy angel's word;
happy they within that stable,
worshipping their infant Lord.

2 Happy all who hear the message
of his coming from above;
happier still who hail his coming,
and with praises greet his love.
Blessèd Saviour, Christ most holy,
in a manger thou didst rest;
canst thou stoop again, yet lower,
and abide within my breast?

3 Evil things are there before thee;
in the heart, where they have fed,
wilt thou pitifully enter,
Son of Man, and lay thy head?
Enter, then, O Christ most holy;
make a Christmas in my heart;
make a heaven of my manger:
it is heaven where thou art.

4 And to those who never listened
to the message of thy birth,
who have winter, but no Christmas
bringing them thy peace on earth,
send to these the joyful tidings;
by all people, in each home,
be there heard the Christmas anthem:
praise to God, the Christ has come!

George Stringer Rowe (1830–1913)
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Blessing

Happy all who hear the message,
of his coming from above.
And to those who never listened,
to the message of thy birth,
send to these the joyful tidings,
by all people, in each home,
be there heard the Christmas anthem,
praise to God the Christ has come.

Lord, you invited us to come and see,
and you opened our eyes to your wonders.
We have been transformed by our encounter.
Now give us the courage to go and tell,
to share who you are with others we meet,
so they too may be transformed.
In the name of Christ we pray.
Amen.

Every blessing to you all.

Rev Sarah