



Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday 7 am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: TIS 215, TIS 599, vv1-3,6, TIS 585, MP 955)

Sunday 9 am: Family Communion (also streamed via ZOOM*)

(Hymns: TIS 595, MP 1008, Will you come and follow me?, MP 1151)

* <https://zoom.us/j/7210725462> or by telephone (07 3185 3730, meeting ID 721 072 5462).
Contact the Parish Office for the password.

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.

Rev'd Timothy writes...

Moving on in this season of Epiphany, our gospel passage this week has another story of God calling as Jesus chooses his first disciples, the four fishermen.

For Simon, Andrew, James and John this was an ordinary day. They were either casting their nets in the water, or sitting on their boat mending the nets; just like any other day. They were not looking for Jesus, they were just getting on with life. But on this ordinary day something extraordinary happened; Jesus came and spoke to them, interrupting the ordinariness, and inviting them into an Epiphany, a transformation.



“Follow me” was Jesus’ invitation to a new life. If the four fishermen accepted the invitation, their lives would forever be different. They will be different. They will no longer catch just fish. They will fish for people.

When Jesus says, “I will make you fish for people,” he is describing the transformation of their lives, not simply a job catching new members or followers. He could just as easily have said to the carpenters, “Follow me, and you will build the kingdom of heaven.” To the farmers, “Follow me, and you will grow God’s people. To the doctors, “Follow me, and you will heal the brokenness of the world.” To the teachers, “Follow me, and you will open minds and hearts to the presence of God.” To the parents, “Follow me, and you will nurture new life.”

Jesus calls us. He says to us “follow me”. This is a call to participate in God’s work using whatever skills we are gifted with. We are called to see the bigger vision of God’s life in the world.

Given the current increase in the presence of COVID, if you are feeling unwell please stay home and rest. You can join our 9am service on Zoom. Details of how to do this are included with the weekly parish email.

If you are rostered for a task, don’t worry, we will fill your spot.



Readings for the 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

First reading (7 and 9am)

A reading from the first book of Jonah

¹ The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ² 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' ³ So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

⁶ When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷ Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: 'By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸ Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.'

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Jonah 3: 1-10

Psalm 62: 5-12

⁵ Nevertheless, my soul, wait in silence for God:

for from him comes my hope.

⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation: my strong tower, so that I shall not be moved.

⁷ In God is my deliverance and my glory: God is my strong rock and my shelter.

⁸ Trust in him at all times, O my people: pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

⁹ The children of Adam are but breath, the children of earth are a lie: place them in the scales and they fly upward, they are as light as air.

¹⁰ Put no trust in extortion, do not grow worthless by robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

¹¹ God has spoken once, twice have I heard him say: that power belongs to God,

¹² That to the Lord belongs a constant goodness: for you reward each one of us according to our works.

Second Reading (7am only)

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians

²⁹ I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰ and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as

though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions,³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

1 Corinthians 7: 29-31

Gospel reading

A reading from the gospel of Mark

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,¹⁵ and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the

good news.'

¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.'¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.

²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Mark 1: 14-20

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Coming through the Call

We may think of an epiphany as a novel idea and possibly a new trajectory for our lives. The Season after the Epiphany can be a time to settle into a new sense of call or a renewed sense of purpose. This week, we study texts that highlight the topsy-turvy, surprising aspects of this season of sustained discovery.

Jonah 3:1–5, 10 Do you know how long it would take to walk across your city? Jonah had a message to deliver and walked for an entire day into a city that takes three days to walk across. He didn't walk the outskirts of the city where it would have been easier to escape but walked so far into the city that he would have been in real trouble if the message was not believed; to turn and run would have been impossible. Jonah was all in, and it worked. The people believed.

Psalms 62: 5–12 explains that when you wait and rest with confidence in God, you can stop worrying about status, riches and even hear the voice of God a little more clearly. Paul writes on this theme to the Christians in 1 Corinthians 7:29–31. He explains that everything impossible is possible; everything you thought you knew or were called to do will pass away. If your life is sad, live as if you can celebrate; if you are celebrating, live as if you know sadness. Let go of your possessions; let go of the world you know.

These are helpful poetic ramblings that hedge toward mystical proverbs by which to live. There are Zen stories like this: characters encounter a thief in their homes and insist on caring for the one who would rob them; monks carry wealthy men or

women through mud, enduring the physical weight but also the insult of the task. When asked, "Why would you carry such a person?" the wise monk instead asks the novice, "Why do you still want to carry the weight of the insult? Perhaps your load is heavier than mine was. I put myself to the task; once completed, I let it all go." If you think that it is ridiculous to protect the perpetrator of a crime, you're not alone!

The scriptures do not teach us to seek trauma or endure abuses. Instead, Jonah, Paul and the author of the psalm recognize how much danger surrounds God's people and tell stories of resilience, recovery, and renewal for all God's people when we can overcome our bias and anxieties.

This is all helpful background as we watch what happens in Mark 1:14–20. Jesus calls out to fishers as they work. Andrew, Simon, James, and John are all compelled to drop everything when they hear Jesus inviting them out of their routines and away from their established identities. They may not have known the story of Jonah or the psalmist's argument in favour of trusting God alone, but we do. We can choose to believe that God will shape our lives, configure them and reconfigure them as often as necessary.

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This week's readings make compelling arguments for us to drop everything when we are invited to a deeper relationship with God. It can be challenging to leave behind what we once found reliable. What will you leave behind as you discover more about God's persistence, protections, and power? What can you do to feel free to move through this season in the company of the Christ?

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Jonah: A reluctant prophet

Our Old Testament reading this week is part of the story of Jonah (past the 'whale' incident). We see Jonah, who had spent the previous two chapters avoiding his call from God, finally preaching to Ninevah with great effect.



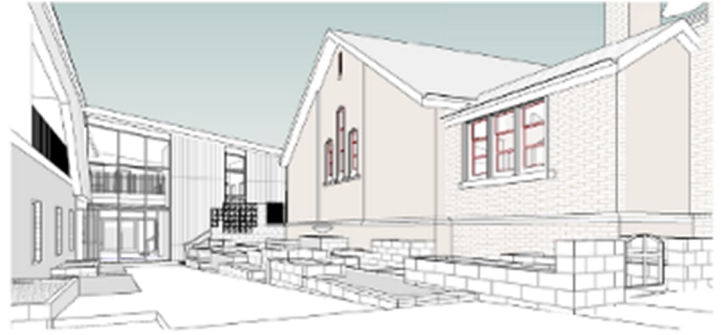
Here is a poem by Thomas John Carlisle that reflects this:

THE GREAT INTRUDER

It is exasperating
to be called
so persistently
when the last thing
we want to do
is get up and go
but God
elects
to keep on
haunting
like some
holy ghost.

Redevelopment News

An initial meeting was held with the builders and the diocesan team during last week. The current estimate is that the builders will be on site around the middle of February.



Hall and office clear out

Working bees will continue to be held on Saturdays 20, 27 January, 3 and 10 February to clear out the halls and parish centre. All are welcome to come along and help whenever you are available.

If anyone has space that could be used for storage during the build, such as an unused garage, please speak to the Wardens.

The Parish Council also discussed ways in which we can use the church during the build including to continue to offer meeting spaces and refreshments after services. We will be temporarily removing three pews at the back of church on the north side to facilitate this.

Memorial Garden.

Under clause 22 of the Cemeteries Canon of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane, the Most Rev'd Jeremy Greaves KCSJ, Archbishop of Brisbane, has given notice that he has declared this Place for Ashes to be closed.

We held a thanksgiving service for the Memorial Garden last Sunday evening, and will proceed to remove the ashes for storage prior to the builders starting on site.

Prayer:

Please join with me in giving thanks to God that our redevelopment project is now going ahead, and pray for all that needs to be done in both the preparation for the build, and to keep our ministries going during the build.

Father, we thank you that your love for us never ends and your mercy never ceases. You call us to share this good news with our neighbours. We thank you for the vision to develop our site at St Luke's to provide a welcoming place for young families through a Christian Early Learning Centre, and for other opportunities to grow an intergenerational worshipping community. We give thanks for the wisdom of all those involved in the design and planning of the facilities, which has brought us to this stage. Give us the assurance that it is through you, the God of heaven, that our endeavours will be successful. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us that we ought to build on the firm foundation that is faith in you.

For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

Bountiful God, through your Son you have called us to repent of our sin, to believe the good news, and to celebrate the coming of your kingdom: teach us, like Christ's first apostles, to hear the call to discipleship, and, forsaking old ways, to proclaim the gospel of new life to a broken world; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The World

Continue to pray for peace in Israel, giving thanks for the agreement to allow humanitarian aid to reach Gaza.

Anglican Communion

The Church of South India (United)

The Diocese of Riverina: †Donald Kirk; Clergy and People

The Parish of Allora-Clifton: Matthew Skelton, Courtney Smith

Maryborough Correctional Centre:

All Saints Anglican School, Merrimac: Headmaster – Patrick Wallas; Chaplain – Ann McGuinness; Chair of School Council – John Fradgley; members of School Council; staff & students

Our missionary partners

Bruce and Libby, serving with CMS in South Asia.

Our parish

Pray for the diocesan property team and the builders as they finalise the legal details in preparation for our redevelopment to start.

Local Schools & Colleges

Yeronga High, Mansfield High, Holland Park High, Mt Gravatt High, Brisbane State High

All school staff and children as they return to school this week.

Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed

Ryan, Jocelyn Hawes, Peter F, Peter Pressdee, David F., Jan Moody, Robyn McElnea, June McNicol, Ash and Joh, Cathy, Rita Johnson, Sharon L., Rose White

From the Parish Book of Remembrance

21 January: Olivia Mary Moran, Hazel Irene Hamilton, Barbara Mary Johnson, Clyde Charles Leslie Mitchell; *22 January:* Millicent Thompson, Linda Edith Leahy;

24 January: Carl Wilhelm Rudolph Just, Athol Williamson; *25 January:* Joyce Ruby Draydon; *27 January:* Katie Eileen Willson .

Dates for your diary

31st January: 9.30am – St Luke's Connect

4th February: 7am and 9am – Episcopal Visit by the Rt Rev'd John Roundhill

13th February: 6pm – Pancake Dinner for Shrove Tuesday (venue TBA)

14th February: 9.30am and 6.30pm – Services for Ash Wednesday

18th February: 10.30am – Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Reports

Reports for the Annual Report Book are due by NEXT SUNDAY 28th January.



Please submit as Word documents to admin@stlukesekibin.org.au

Children's Church

resumes
NEXT WEEK on
Sunday 28th
January



Services This Week:

Tuesday—Thursday

6pm: Evening prayer on Zoom

Tuesday 23rd January

1.30pm: Holy Communion (Regis)

Sunday 28th January

(4th Sunday after Epiphany)

7am: Holy Communion

9am: Family Communion (St Lukes's / Zoom) with Children's Church

Readings: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20, Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13, Mark 1: 21-28

Keep in touch:

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-  [@stlukesekibin](https://www.facebook.com/stlukesekibin)

Parish Wardens:

Brian Wood (0466 656 149)

Alison Lampe (0408 183 701)

Lynn Mitchell (0409 150 861)

Offerings:

Bank details (internet banking):
Anglican Parish of Ekibin

A/C 0000 7820

BSB 704 901

Or scan the QR
code to give
online:



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