

Go Immediately

Is the image on the front cover a familiar sight for you? Are the geese having difficulty getting into their usual formation? Who is doing the leading or honking? Which one decided to fly and called the others to join? Where might *you* be in this formation?

Today's scripture is the story of Jesus calling his first four disciples: Simon and Andrew and James and John, two sets of brothers. All four were fishermen, and all four left *immediately* after being called! Jesus simply invites them—"Follow me and I will make you fish for people"—and they drop everything and go.

So, how much did the disciples know about this man who called them? Matthew and Mark record the calling of these disciples the same, but Luke's version provides a little more background on the person they are going to follow (see Luke 5:1-11). Jesus called them after climbing into one of their boats and directing them to drop their nets into the deep water to catch a boatload of fish.

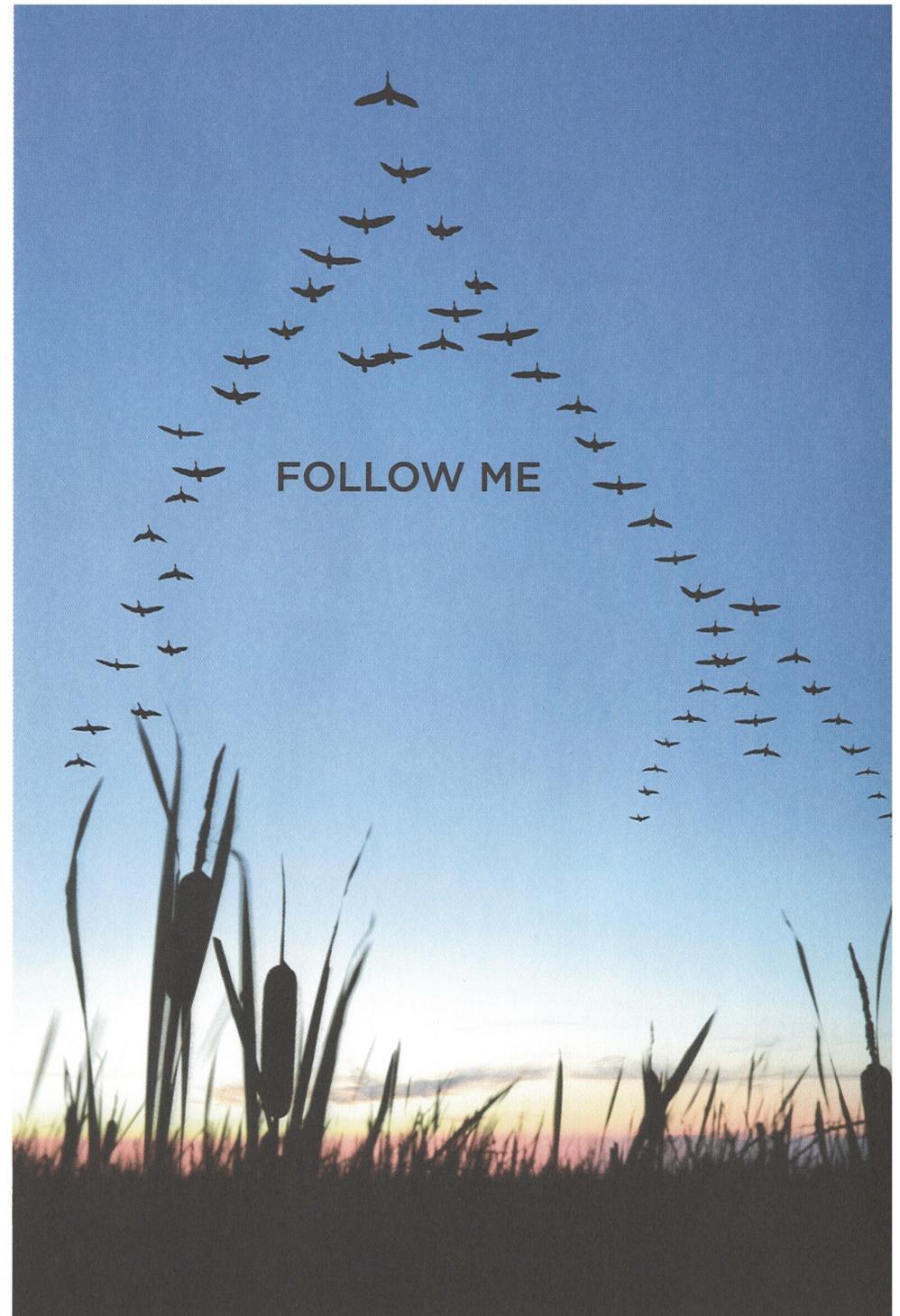
Have you ever said yes to an opportunity to serve without knowing the person calling you or having a detailed description of the arrangements? If so, how did you feel? Most of us are much more cautious than these men, who left *immediately* when called.

The proposed compelling vision statement includes three characteristics of disciples the Church of the Brethren will endeavor to call: innovative, adaptable, and fearless. We know the One who is calling us, and we trust that we'll be equipped for our journey. May we be willing to say yes and go *immediately* when called!

—D. Miller Davis
Westminster, Maryland

Text for today: "Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.' As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat . . . and followed him" (Mark 1:14-20, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20 (17).

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:00 AM

Worship January 24, 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Jesus, I Come" (Scriveyner)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Julie Herman, Worship Leader

One: For God alone our souls wait in silence.
Our hope is from God, our fortress.

**All: God is our rock and our salvation.
God is our refuge and our deliverance.**

One: Trust in God at all times, in all places.
Pour out your hearts to the One who hears.

**All: All people are valuable in God's sight.
No one is more important than another.**

One: Worship God, who is ready to speak to us.
Open your lives to God's steadfast love.

**All: All power in the universe belongs to God.
Yet God depends on our faithful service.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

We await your message, God of all places and times. Sometimes we do not like what we hear, but we know we need to listen. Your message is inclusive and fair, while we like to make distinctions that favor us and our friends. You call us out of our comfort zones to do new things and try better ways. You direct us to reach out to people with whom we seem to have little in common. Speak your truth to us in this service so we can carry it to the places where you want us to go, to the people you are eager to reach. Amen.

***HYMN** (Red Hymnal) "Jesus Calls Us"

[Verse 1]

*Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea.
day by day His sweet voice soundeth, saying "Christian, follow me!"*

[Verse 2]

*Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying "Christian, love me more!"*

[Verse 3]

*In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still He calls,
in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"*

[Verse 4]

*Jesus calls us! By Thy mercies, Savior, may we hear Thy call, give our
hearts to Thine obedience, serve and love Thee best of all! A-MEN.*

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

When our riches increase, we are tempted to put our trust and confidence in them. But riches are not meant to satisfy us. They are placed in our hands that we might accomplish some good purpose. Giving through the church grants us that opportunity.

So, the giving of our tithes and offerings is a very important part of our worship, even when we are not gathered together in the sanctuary. Our giving is a response to God's call on us to fulfill our obligations to the church and to keep the ongoing ministries of the church vital. As you listen to the offertory, use this time to prepare your offering to mail into the church, or to drop off at the church, or to go to the HCOB webpage and use PayPal to give your offering. May we give joyfully as we participate in this significant act of worship.

Offertory "He Leadeth Me" (Arr. Lowe)

***Response #119** "Doxology"

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of steadfast love, we pray that you will love the world through the moneys we dedicate today. We pray that your work of transformation will be carried forward by our gifts. As a church, we seek to follow where Jesus leads. As individuals, we heed the call to discipleship. Bless our efforts to fish for people – for their sakes, not our own. Amen.

(continued)

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Legacy” (Nordeman)
Julie Herman

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 1:14-20, Jonah 3:1-5, 10

(Mark)

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

(Jonah)

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” 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. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

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.

MESSAGE

“Let’s Go Fishing”
Pastor Twyla Rowe

*HYMN #599

“He Leadeth Me”

[Verse 1]

*He leadeth me, oh blessed thought! Oh, words with heav’nly comfort fraught!
What e’er I do where’er I be, still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.*

Refrain:

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me.
His faithful foll’wer I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.*

[Verse 2]

*Sometimes ’mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden’s bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o’er troubled sea, still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.*

Refrain:

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me.
His faithful foll’wer I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.*

[Verse 3]

*Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine; content,
whatever lot I see, since ’tis my God that leadeth me.*

Refrain:

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me.
His faithful foll’wer I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.*

[Verse 4]

*And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace, the vict’ry’s won,
e’en death’s cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me.*

Refrain:

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me.
His faithful foll’wer I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Close to Thee” (Arr. Moore)

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

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(continued)