

## MUMC At-Home Worship: January 31, 2021

Welcome back to worship! We're starting a new worship series this week that's grounded in stories of good coming from unexpected places – because it seems that God is very often drawing good things from the last place we might expect it. If you haven't used our sermon by phone line yet, you might want to give it a try over these next few weeks as we're doing this series in partnership with two other Michigan United Methodist churches and will have the chance to hear both of their pastors as guest preachers! Simply call **734-206-1531** at any time to hear the sermon from the most recent Sunday. Hope you have a great week! ~ Pastor Dillon

*If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:*

God of the planned and the unexpected, of faithful love and surprising grace, teach us the rhythms of your Spirit. Guide our feet, that we might follow you wherever you might lead. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

**Hymn:** *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*, The Faith We Sing hymnal #2129 [watch/listen here](#)

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 5:1-11

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflect:**

1. Jesus asks Simon (often known only by his second name, Peter) to row into the deep water and put down their nets despite catching nothing the night prior. What do you imagine might have compelled Peter to follow this bizarre request? Has God ever asked you to do something unexpected or ridiculous? How did you respond?
2. Simon Peter's response to the boatload of fish was to declare himself a sinner but, rather than forgive him, Jesus tells him "Don't be afraid." How might our fears sometimes mask themselves as concerns about our self-worth (sinfulness)?
3. Jesus chose regular, working-class people to be his disciples. How might this be a significant insight into Jesus' ministry? How might Jesus' invitation to become a fisher of people apply also to us today?

**Hymn:** *The Summons*, The Faith We Sing hymnal #2130 [watch/listen here](#)

**Prayer Requests:** Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

**Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*, The Faith We Sing hymnal #2153 [watch/listen here](#)

**Closing Prayer:** Holy God, you have called us all to live as your disciples. As we go from this time of worship, may we go to follow in your ways. Amen.

*(Blow out the candle)*

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*  
**The Faith We Sing hymnal #2129**

1. I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
no turning back, no turning back.
2. The world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me,  
no turning back, no turning back.
3. Though none go with me, still I will follow,  
though none go with me, still I will follow,  
though none go with me, still I will follow,  
no turning back, no turning back.

*“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” words and music by anonymous, and both are in the public domain.*

**Luke 5:1-11 Common English Bible**

One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around him to hear God’s word. Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets. Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he finished speaking to the crowds, he said to Simon, “Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch.”

Simon replied, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I’ll drop the nets.”

So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting. They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink. When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Leave me, Lord, for I’m a sinner!” Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. James and John, Zebedee’s sons, were Simon’s partners and they were amazed too.

Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people.” As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

*Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

*The Summons*

**The Faith We Sing hymnal #2130**

1. Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you  
and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you  
and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you  
and you in me?
4. Will you love the "you" you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?
5. Lord your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where  
Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

*"The Summons" words by John Bell. Words © 1987  
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*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

**The Faith We Sing hymnal #2153**

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
2. I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

*"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" words and  
music are an African American spiritual; music is  
arranged by Wendell Whalum. Arr. © Estate of  
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