



“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

Third Sunday after Epiphany
Saturday and Sunday, January 20–21, 2018

All Services

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore” (*Tú has venido a la orilla*)

1 You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
but only asking for me to follow.

refrain

Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.

2 You know full well what I have, Lord:
neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
just these my fish nets and will for working. *refrain*

3 You need my hands, my exhaustion,
working love for the rest of the weary--
a love that's willing to go on loving. *refrain*

4 You who have fished other waters;
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
O loving Friend, you have come to call me. *Refrain*

Text: Ceáreo Gabaráin, 1936-1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b 1946. Music: Ceáreo Gabaráin, Text and music © 1979 Ceáreo Gabaráin, OCP Publications. Used with permission. CCLI #1283514.

This hymn was written by Spanish priest Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936-1991; and translated by Madeleine Forell Marshall (daughter of famed Lutheran theologian George Forell and married to son of Dr. Robert Marshall, president for many years of the LCA).

I worked closely with Madeleine many years ago after she translated this beautiful hymn. Cesáreo was inspired by the changes enabled by Vatican II. He went on to write 500 hymns that were inspired by a closer walk with Christ. The Catholic church had been at odds with Protestant churches for many years. This change enabled doors long shuttered to open and let sunshine in.

Many of us remember the significant turmoil caused by Vatican II. The worship was no longer in Latin but the language of the people (like Luther had introduced), modern hymns were written & people were encouraged to fully participate in the liturgy (once again like Luther), and every member was encouraged to help participate in their own ministries (Luther called it priesthood of all believers).

Many of us really do not like change. It can be disruptive. It can cause us to question the foundations of our faith. Yet we need to focus on the foundations of the faith that Jesus calls us to follow rather than our own desires which sometimes run contrary to the work and needs of God's Kingdom. In 1st Corinthians 13; St Paul wrote "When I was a child; I thought and acted as a child. Now that I am an adult; I have no more use of childish ways."

This hymn speaks to the importance of our shared discipleship. Jesus calls each and everyone of us to follow. It calls us into Christian maturity. The refrain speaks of abandoning those things that no longer matter and seeking out sharing the love of God that is our greatest treasure.

During the past year I have been privileged to walk alongside you good people of Trinity, Camp Hill. Together we have listened to each other and more importantly open our hearts and minds to direction by the Spirit.

During the next few months we will continue to listen and dialogue. What is God truly calling us to follow and do today? If twelve disciples can help change the world in Jesus name; imagine what the thousands of discipleship members at this congregation can accomplish!

All of our churches today are at a crossroads. The world has changed. Each of us must ask. Will our church be a museum dedicated to the past or an effective mission center dedicated to sharing a Christ centered message backed up by deeds of loving kindness?

Jesus needs our hands, our exhaustion, working love for the rest of the weary-- a love that's willing to go on loving. We gladly follow because our Sweet Lord has looked into our eyes; is kindly smiling and has called out our names.

Albert Schweitzer wrote "Jesus comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lake-side, He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow me!" and sets us to the tasks which He must fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, Jesus will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience Who Jesus truly is."

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