



17-23 January 2021 • Faith 24/7

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Come, see, hear

John 1.43-51

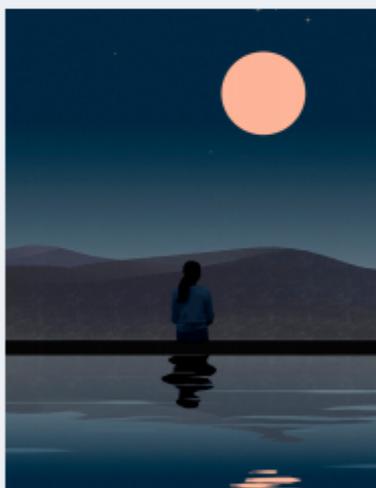
A short scene where Jesus finds Philip and he accepts Jesus' invitation to follow him straight away. Philip then finds Nathanael, but he is not so keen. Philip simply invites Nathanael to 'Come and see', to meet Jesus for himself and understand who he is.

Now read **John 1.43-51** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

This is a story of two people encountering Jesus. Rather than try to persuade Nathanael that Jesus is the Messiah by clever arguments, Philip simply invites Nathanael to 'Come and see'. Some of us are like Philip and ready to follow straight away, while some of us are like Nathanael – full of questions and needing to see and hear for ourselves. Are you more like Philip or Nathanael, or somewhere in between?

Come



Jesus said that he knew Nathanael because he had seen him sitting under the fig tree. The fig tree is a symbol of peace, and it was common to sit undisturbed under its branches to meditate or pray. Where do you find peace? What helps you to come to God in prayer? Perhaps you could go outside and find a sheltered spot by a tree, or maybe set aside a comfortable space in your house. Work out what environment best helps you to come, hear or see God. If you can't find/create the right environment, use this image to help you find peace and spend time with God.

See

Philip invited Nathanael to 'Come and see'. We may not feel like we have the opportunity to see Jesus in the way that Nathanael did. But we can see God at work, and we can learn more about God from what we see every day. Choose a household object – ideally, do this in a group with others, or share your thoughts with others – and use it to explain something about the way you see God, e.g. a colander – God filters out what you don't need so that you are left with the good things. Share your object and idea, and discuss the various ways we can see God and what God is like.

Hear

Listen to the sound clip at vimeo.com/406653924.
What do you hear?

In a poll, 53% of people reported hearing the word 'Laurel' while 47% heard the word 'Yanny'. Different people listening to the same thing hear it completely differently. Think about, or discuss with others, how different people hear God in different ways. What helps you to hear God? How do you recognise what comes from God?



You will need: an empty container or jar, sticky notes or squares of paper, pencils.

Each evening, look back over the day and think of any moments when you heard God's call, or were aware of God's presence in your life or the lives of others. Write or draw a picture of what happened on a sticky note, fold it up and place it in the jar, giving thanks to God for that moment.

If you ever go through a time when God feels far away or absent, dip into the jar and pull out a sticky note to remind yourself of when you felt close to God.

WATCH

Watch the film *The Snowman* [U] or look at the picture book by Raymond Briggs. The snowman's life is in two halves – in the first, James shows the snowman his world and in the second, the snowman shows James his. They each invite the other to 'come and see'. Talk to someone about your ways of connecting with and hearing God and ask them to show you theirs. How are they similar/different? What have you learned from each other? (As this is the week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18-25 January – you may like to talk to a Christian of a different denomination/tradition.)

Dear Friends,

Revd Rob Farmer 01905-319157. Phil Welling 01905-354778 Penny Welford 01905-351468



Dear Friends,

In this Sunday's gospel we have the account of the call of Philip and Nathanael who candidly says "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Surprisingly there is a clue in the last verse of the reading that gives us a glimpse of just how "good" it could be. Francis Thompson (1859-1907) was an English poet who was saved by his poetry. He is best known for his poem "The Hound of Heaven." This poem, "In No Strange Land (The Kingdom of God is within you)" was written in the late 1880's when he was homeless and addicted to opium. He would sleep outside at Charing Cross junction and reflect that in the same way that fish do not question the existence of the sea, so we should not question the existence of God. In John 1:51, there is an allusion to Jacob's ladder (Genesis 28), and here the poet explains that heaven is constantly meeting earth all around us.

O world invisible, we view thee,
 O world intangible, we touch thee,
 O world unknowable, we know thee,
 Inapprehensible, we clutch thee!

The angels keep their ancient places;—
 Turn but a stone and start a wing!
 'Tis ye, 'tis your estrangèd faces,
 That miss the many-splendoured thing.

Does the fish soar to find the ocean,
 The eagle plunge to find the air—
 That we ask of the stars in motion
 If they have rumour of thee there?

But (when so sad thou canst not sadder)
 Cry;—and upon thy so sore loss
 Shall shine the traffic of Jacob's ladder
 Pitched betwixt Heaven and Charing Cross.

Not where the wheeling systems darken,
 And our benumbed conceiving soars!—
 The drift of pinions, would we hearken,
 Beats at our own clay-shuttered doors.

Yea, in the night, my Soul, my daughter,
 Cry,—clinging to Heaven by the hems;
 And lo, Christ walking on the water,
 Not of Genesareth, but Thames!

As always, stay safe and God Bless, Rob.

Daily Readings for week commencing 18 th January 2021		
Monday	Amos 6	1 Corinthians 6: 1-11
Tuesday	Amos 7	1 Corinthians 6: 12-end
Wednesday	Amos 8	1 Corinthians 7: 1-24
Thursday	Amos 9	1 Corinthians 7: 25-end
Friday	Hosea 1: 1-2:1	1 Corinthians 8
Saturday	Hosea 2: 2-17	1 Corinthians 9: 1-14

Pray for those in need...Sally, Zena, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy Lily, Mandy and Joyce. **Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...especially William and Bertha.**