

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY YEAR C**  
**LUKE 5:1-11 | "INTO THE DEEP"**



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CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

***Organist – Sharon Banjavcic***

***Liturgy – Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsey***

(NCH) New Century Hymnal - CCLI LICENSE #11164431

\*Please stand if comfortably able.

Respond with words in bold print.

***Ushers –***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS:**  
**THE BELL IS RUNG;**  
**PRELUDE: "Amazing Grace Jerry Ray"**

**PENNIES FOR MISSION:**

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: There is a good word for you if you are weary.

**P: It is the Word of Love, deeper than every despair.**

L: There is a good word if you have ever felt unworthy.

**P: It is the Word of Hope, "Do not be afraid!"**

L: There is a good word that needs to be heard.

**P: It is the Word of Life, that raises up abundant blessings.**

**\*INVOCATION:**

Loving God, gather us anew into your net of love.

Interrupt whatever overwhelms us with the gift of your renewing grace. Plumb every depth and reveal Your holy abundance. Let it awaken us to what you make possible when we risk answering your invitation to begin again.

Gift us with the courage to trust the command of Christ to put out into the deep, even when it doesn't seem to make sense. Answer our trust with Your promised presence, which reveals an ever-new rising. Bless us with this of You as we gather in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**\*OPENING HYMN: 173 “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”**

**\*PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Holy One, it is easy to succumb to weariness when our work has seemed to yield little goodness. Hope-crushing night can seem so long. Yet You call us to keep putting out into the deep, facing the reality of our emptiness. Sometimes it is of our own making. At other times, pressures beyond have submerged us to the point of losing our breath. So, we release everything to you. We pray that Your promised forgiveness will continue to be trustworthy and true. Let it raise us up for some work of abundance made possible by your grace. We pray this in the name of the one You raised to life, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**\*WORDS OF GRACE:**

Friends, hear the words of Jesus, “Do not be afraid!” There is nothing in our past that matters more than what God can do, beginning now. We are forgiven by the one who has endured the depths of death and has risen to ever-new life. Not only are we forgiven, but we are also sent to fish for others, whom God also yearns to gather with the net of holy love. This is the Good News! You can trust it with your life. Thanks be to God!

**\*GLORIA:**

Glory to the Creator, and the Christ and the Spirit so near. As it was from the start so it shall be forever, One God always here. (repeat twice)  
(end) One God always here. One God always here.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 6:1-13**

6 In the year of King Uzziah’s death, I saw the Lord sitting on a high and exalted throne, the edges of his robe filling the temple. <sup>2</sup>Winged creatures were stationed around him. Each had six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew about. <sup>3</sup>They shouted to each other, saying:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of heavenly forces!  
All the earth is filled with God’s glory!”

<sup>4</sup>The doorframe shook at the sound of their shouting, and the house was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup>I said, “Mourn for me; I’m ruined! I’m a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I’ve seen the king, the Lord of heavenly forces!”

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the winged creatures flew to me, holding a glowing coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs. <sup>7</sup>He touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips. Your guilt has departed, and your sin is removed.”

<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the Lord’s voice saying, “Whom should I send, and who will go for us?”

I said, "I'm here; send me."

<sup>9</sup> God said, "Go and say to this people:

Listen intently, but don't understand;  
look carefully, but don't comprehend.

<sup>10</sup> Make the minds of this people dull.

Make their ears deaf and their eyes blind,  
so they can't see with their eyes  
or hear with their ears,  
or understand with their minds,  
and turn, and be healed."

<sup>11</sup> I said, "How long, Lord?"

And God said, "Until cities lie ruined with no one living in them, until there are houses without people and the land is left devastated." <sup>12</sup> The Lord will send the people far away, and the land will be completely abandoned. <sup>13</sup> Even if one-tenth remain there, they will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak, which when it is cut down leaves a stump. Its stump is a holy seed.

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 138, Page 714**

#### **EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

15 Brothers and sisters, I want to call your attention to the good news that I preached to you, which you also received and in which you stand. <sup>2</sup> You are being saved through it if you hold on to the message I preached to you, unless somehow you believed it for nothing. <sup>3</sup> I passed on to you as most important what I also received:

Christ died for our sins in line with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup> he was buried, and he rose on the third day in line with the scriptures. <sup>5</sup> He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve, <sup>6</sup> and then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at once—most of them are still alive to this day, though some have died. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me, as if I were born at the wrong time. <sup>9</sup> I'm the least important of the apostles. I don't deserve to be called an apostle, because I harassed God's church. <sup>10</sup> I am what I am by God's grace, and God's grace hasn't been for nothing. In fact, I have worked harder than all the others—that is, it wasn't me but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> So then, whether you heard the message from me or them, this is what we preach and this is what you have believed.

#### **\*GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 5:1-11**

#### **Jesus calls disciples**

5 One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around him to hear God's word. <sup>2</sup> Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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.”

<sup>5</sup> Simon replied, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I’ll drop the nets.”

<sup>6</sup> So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Leave me, Lord, for I’m a sinner!” <sup>9</sup> Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. <sup>10</sup> 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.” <sup>11</sup> As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

*These are the ancient words revealed to us anew.*

***Thanks be to God.***

**MESSAGE: HOW DID IT HAPPEN? (With words from Rev. N. T. Wright)**

When Christ calls a person, “declared Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “he tells them to come and die.” Bonhoeffer, of course, did exactly that, hanged by the Nazis for

resistance to Hitler. He was killed just a few days before the end of World War II. But when Simon Peter first met Jesus, he didn’t realize this. If he could have seen a movie of what would happen to him in the next year or two, he might well have repeated his plea that Jesus leave him in peace. But that’s not how Jesus worked; it’s not how God works.

Peter clearly had a sense that life was never going to be the same again, that he was going to face new demands and challenges; but he couldn’t help being swept off his feet by what had happened.

It had started as a neat bit of resourcefulness on Jesus’ part. It seems that he’d begun to teach a group by the shore, but the crowd got bigger and bigger and there simply wasn’t room. So, he improvised.

For those of you who spend time on a lake, perhaps camping, you might have noticed that voices carry across the water like a megaphone. Jesus was simply exploiting the geography of the area and the ready availability of a boat.

Having commandeered the boat, with the fishermen listening to every word of Jesus, he puts them on the spot. Every seasoned fisherman knows that the best time to catch fish is at night time. On this occasion, the men had worked all night for no fish. Ordinarily the fishermen having no success this evening, would start again in the morning.

As we know, Jesus is no ordinary person. He told them to go back out in the boat and to fish on the other side. Jesus told them to do it, so they did. He made that sort of impression on people, even hard-working, no-nonsense fishermen. The boat was almost tipped over with the weight of fish they hauled in. Then the moment of truth. Peter finds himself right out of his league. Jesus promises that the same sort of thing will happen, only now it will be people, not fish. And the fishermen became followers, going off into a new life with only the sketchiest idea of where it will take them.

This is the kind of story it helps to get inside. Becoming Peter for a few moments; pause and ponder what you normally do, day after day, and then imagine Jesus suddenly appearing asking for your help with his own work, and then telling you to do something in your own line of work which seems pointless, a waste of time and effort. You do it, grumbling perhaps under your breath; and suddenly everything clicks into place, everything succeeds on a scale you'd never dreamed of.

What's going on? How did it happen? Feel the sense of awe, terror even, as you come to terms with the power of Jesus. Then feel that sense of terror increase as he turns to you with what looks like a question in his eyes, though it proves to be a command. "You and I are going to be working together from now on," he says.

And you realize you have no choice. If this man isn't worth following, nobody is. Amen

**SPECIAL MUSIC: "When Jesus Saw the Fisherman"**

**PASTORAL PRAYER:**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**PRAYER RESPONSE: 773 "Remember me"**

**Remember me, remember me,  
O Jesus, remember me.**

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY:**

Just when he was at his wit's end, Peter received the command of Christ, to let down his nets into the deep and trust what God can and will do. The result was a net-bursting catch. Jesus revealed the secret of a generous life. It requires trust that God can and will multiply our best efforts for a good deeper and wider than we can imagine. As we bring our gifts to God, may the same spirit that enlivened Jesus and surprised Peter be at work in us. And may it grow in us a deep joy!

**OFFERTORY: "Jesus Is Calling" Franklin Ritter**

**\*DOXOLOGY: 785 "We Give You but your Own"**

**We give you but your own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone,**

**we give it gratefully.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

God of the bursting nets, we thank you for your abundant blessings rising up at every turn. Multiply these gifts and our faith that your good news of life-giving love may stretch wider still. Yes, form us deep in Your heart for this good and gracious work. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: 172 “Jesus Calls Us, O’er the Tumult”**

**\*BENEDICTION:**

May the blessing of the Holy One who has plumbed every depth, continually raise you up.  
May God’s ridiculous abundance stretch wide your heart.  
And may God gift you with a boldness to bless others, awakening them to their beloved identity.  
Amen and Amen!

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”**

**THE BELL IS RUNG:**

**POSTLUDE: “I Sing the Mighty Power of God Stewart Landon**