

JANUARY 18, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JOHN 1:29-42 "COME AND SEE"



ST. JOHN
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(NCH) New Century Hymnal - CCLI LICENSE #11164431

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture texts
are from the **Common English Bible (CEB)**

*Please stand if comfortably able
and respond with words in **bold** print

SUMMARY OF SCRIPTURE TEXTS

From “Preaching Through the Christian Year” Fred Craddock
Isaiah 49:1-7 the second Servant Song from Isaiah is a fitting complement to last week’s Old Testament reading. It’s emphasis on the calling of the servant and his special vocation as a “light to the nations” makes it especially appropriate in this Epiphany setting.

Psalms 40:1-11 Thanksgiving finally prompts the psalmist to tell abroad the good news of deliverance.

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 The first of several semicontinuous readings from 1 Corinthians 1-4 that continue for seven weeks.

John 1:29-42 the Johannine account of the baptism of Jesus that is not an account of the event, but more or less presupposes it. In the context of the Epiphany, its emphasis is on John’s role as one who bore witness to the event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS:

THE BELL IS RUNG:

PRELUDE: “Come, All Christians, Be Committed”

Jeff Bennett

PENNIES FOR MISSION: Dubois Camp

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

(Isaiah 49:1,6-7 NRSVUE)

One: Listen to me, O Coastlands; pay attention, you

people from far away!

Many: God called us before we were born; we were named by God while in our mother's womb.

One: God made our mouths like sharp swords; in the shadow of God's hand, we were hidden.

Many: God made us a polished arrow; in God's quiver, we were hidden away.

One: I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

Many: Kings shall see and stand up; princes shall prostrate themselves, because of God, who is faithful, the Holy One has chosen you.

***INVOCATION:**

Knitter of our bones and namer of our being, we invite you to encompass us with your spirit. Everything we desire can be found in you. You desire wholeness for us and in us so now we draw nigh to receive from you and to share in you. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: 172 "Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult"

***UNISON PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:**

Redeemer, granter of free will, helps us to stay encouraged to exercise our free will to cause heaven to exist on the earth. We confess that we often miss the

bigger picture, while staring at the snapshot of our lives. You have equipped us to see each other's suffering and remedy it. In doing so, we transform how we live and where we live. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE:**

God's ability to help us stay alert, keeps us open to salvation and the possibility of experiencing Heaven on earth at any given time. Heaven can be a place on earth. Amen.

***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 two more times.) (end) One God always here. One God always here.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

**OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 49:1-7 From "The Message"
A Light for the Nations**

49 ¹⁻³ Listen, far-flung islands, pay attention, faraway people: God put me to work from the day I was born. The moment I entered the world he named me. He gave me speech that would cut and penetrate. He kept his hand on me to protect me. He made me his straight arrow and hid me in his quiver. He said to me, "You're my dear servant, Israel, through

whom I'll shine." ⁴ But I said, "I've worked for nothing. I've nothing to show for a life of hard work. Nevertheless, I'll let God have the last word. I'll let him pronounce his verdict." ⁵⁻⁶ "And now," God says, this God who took me in hand from the moment of birth to be his servant, to bring Jacob back home to him, to set a reunion for Israel— What an honor for me in God's eyes! That God should be my strength! He says, "But that's not a big enough job for my servant— just to recover the tribes of Jacob, merely to round up the strays of Israel. I'm setting you up as a light for the *nations* so that my salvation becomes *global*!"

⁷ God, Redeemer of Israel, The Holy of Israel, says to the despised one, kicked around by the nations, slave labor to the ruling class: "Kings will see, get to their feet—the princes, too— and then fall on their faces in homage Because of God, who has faithfully kept his word, the Holy of Israel, who has chosen you."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 40:1-11 Page 647

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (CEB)

Greeting

1 From Paul, called by God's will to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, and from Sosthenes our brother. ² To God's church that is in Corinth: To those who have been made holy to God in Christ Jesus, who are called to be God's people.

Together with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place—he's their Lord and ours! ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving for the Corinthians

⁴ I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ That is, you were made rich through him in everything: in all your communication and every kind of knowledge, ⁶ in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed with you. ⁷ The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also confirm your testimony about Christ until the end so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

***GOSPEL: John 1:29-42**

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one about whom I said, 'He who comes after me is really greater than me because he existed before me.' ³¹ Even I didn't recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be made known to Israel." ³² John testified, "I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it rested on

him.³³ Even I didn't recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'³⁴ I have seen and testified that this one is God's Son."

Jesus calls disciples

³⁵ The next day John was standing again with two of his disciples.³⁶ When he saw Jesus walking along he said, "Look! The Lamb of God!"³⁷ The two disciples heard what he said, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he asked, "What are you looking for?"

They said, "Rabbi (which is translated *Teacher*), where are you staying?"

³⁹ He replied, "Come and see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ One of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter.⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated *Christ*).⁴² He led him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is translated *Peter*).

MESSAGE: "Come and See"

This passage is long and has much detail. There are many parts and movements. The problem is for the preacher to choose just one, or maybe two, important parts to talk about. How much time do we have? Only kidding!

There are two things I believe are important to mention. The first is when John the Baptizer calls Jesus the "Lamb of God." What does John mean? You may recall the Old Testament story of the exodus of the Jews from the grips of Pharaoh. When Moses could not convince the Pharaoh to release the Jewish slaves, God chose plagues to attack the Egyptians. The last and most severe was the plague of death on all first born children in the region. In order to save the Jews from this plague, Moses told the people to kill a lamb and paint their doorways with the blood of that lamb. Those who did so, the Jews, were saved from this plague but the Egyptians were not. John recognized Jesus as the lamb whose blood would save those who followed Jesus, but, of course, the lamb had to be killed first.

The question might be asked, how did John know who Jesus was? John says that the point of his own ministry of baptism was that Christ would be revealed to Israel, but first Christ had to be revealed to John. And this revelation occurred at the baptism of Jesus when the

heavens opened and God spoke, “this is my Son who has pleased me.” John was a witness to that revelation.

And now we come to the second important message in this passage; how did John act after this revelation? Verses 35-37 state, “The following day John was again standing there, with two of his disciples. He saw Jesus walking by, and said, ‘Look! There goes God’s lamb!’” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.”

Once again, we see John pointing beyond himself. He must have known very well that to speak to his disciples about Jesus like he did was to invite them to leave him and transfer their loyalty to this new and greater teacher, Jesus. There was no jealousy in John. He had come to attach people not to himself but to Christ. There is no harder task than to take the second place when once the first place was enjoyed. But as soon as Jesus emerged on the scene, John never had any other thought than to send people to him.

So the two disciples of John followed Jesus. It may be that they were too shy to approach him directly and followed respectfully at some distance behind. Then Jesus did something entirely characteristic. He turned and spoke to them. That is to say, he met them half-way. Jesus opened the door that they might come in.

I believe this is the most important part of this passage. If we don’t remember anything from this

discussion, let’s remember this. JESUS OPENED THE DOOR. Here we have the symbol of the divine initiative. It is always God who takes the first step. When the human mind begins to seek and the human heart begins to long, God comes to meet us far more than half-way. God does not leave us to search and search until we come to him; God comes out to meet us. As St. Augustine said, we could not even have begun to seek for God unless he had already found us. When we go to God, we do not go to one who hides Godself and keeps us at a distance; we go to one who stands waiting for us, and who even takes the initiative by coming to meet us on the road.

When we think we have lost God, God is already with us. When we face a crisis, God is already there. When we stand at the bedside of someone dying, God is already there. If we travel to far away lands that seem to have no religion, God is already there. The people may call God with a different name, but God is with them. When we step into the lion’s den, God is there.

God is everywhere, but, unfortunately, sometimes the people who most need to know God’s love, are not looking or searching for God’s help. They think they don’t need God. They want to do things their way. They don’t want to be told what to do. They say, “I’ve got this! I’m good.” However, they are wrong. God’s got this! And sooner or later, the person who thinks they

don't need God, will fail and their view will change. Maybe their child gets very sick. Maybe their best friend leaves them. Maybe their spouse walks out on them. Maybe their stocks fail. Maybe their business goes bankrupt. It might happen on their deathbed, but sooner or later they will ask God for help.

I pray that none of you have to wait until "later" to turn around and see God with you. When you see God, fall into God's arms, say you're sorry for being stubborn and you will receive forgiveness, mercy, and love. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: "God Calls Us Each By Name"

Ken Canedo

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Gentle God: each of us has traveled through many waters, many roads, many hills, and many valleys to reach this place, yet all of us share in one baptism; we arrive from different backgrounds and traditions, yet share one faith; we are, each of us, unique and precious to God, and are members of one Body; we have different dreams and doubts, yet our hearts beat with one hope; we are graced with different gifts, so we may offer them in service to one Lord.

We pray for all our brothers and sisters who are doing just that; serving in God's purposes and we pray that all of us might find our best talents to do the same. We ask you, dear God, to equip us for the work of ministry.

We pray for all of God's children who are suffering this day; hunger, thirst, diseases, injuries, loneliness, and over whelming sadness. May they find comfort and hope in your loving arms, dear God.

Many of us have felt fear and sadness due to the activities of our government. May we continue to pray for better times and to have patience and confidence in God's plan for redemption.

We pray all these things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, as we pray together.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER:

PRAYER RESPONSE: 769 "Hear Our Prayer"

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY:

In Heaven it's believed that there is no good thing lacking. There is no scarcity, no shortage. We have the opportunity today to mirror Heaven. Let's bring whatever we are led to the altar, so that abundance may flow and that God's people and house lack no good thing. Amen.

OFFERTORY: "The Summons" John L. Bell

***DOXOLOGY:**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION:**

**Creator of heaven and earth, receive these offerings
from our hearts and our hands. May they be used to
bring heaven to the earth. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN: 179**

“We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness”

***BENEDICTION:**

As we go forth, let's keep in mind that heaven on earth is possible because the kingdom is in us and the kingdom is us. Amen

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: HYMN 571**

“God of Love, O God of Peace”

THE BELL IS RUNG:

POSTLUDE: “Lift Your Songs of Praise” Stewart Landon

PRAYER LIST: Terry Thorpe, Grandson Landon, Lynne Knecht, Camille Abboud, Becky Ballard, Mary Lou and Urban Baum, Ronald Bopp, Private Ben Boyle, Lorraine Brown, Geralyn Gammon, Sue Ganschinietz, Russ Hartmann, David Jacknewicz, Marilyn Paul, Ella Perez, Pam and Syd Safriet, Gloria Stephens, Yvonne Weber, Sue and Dave in Florida.