

**Morning Worship with Klaus Warnatz**  
**7<sup>th</sup> November 2021**  
**The Third Sunday before Advent**



**Personal preparation before the service begins.**

Please take time to remember where you are,  
 and why you are here.  
 Give thanks and become still  
 in the presence of God

**Prelude**

**Gathering and Greeting**

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.  
 Let us recognize his presence with us.

*Silence is kept.*

As God's people we have gathered:  
**let us worship him together.**

**Let us pray with words from Psalm 62**

***Refrain:* Wait on God alone in stillness, O my soul.**

- 1 On God alone my soul in stillness waits; ♦  
**from him comes my salvation.**
- 2 He alone is my rock and my salvation, ♦  
**my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**
- 3 How long will all of you assail me to destroy me, ♦  
**as you would a tottering wall or a leaning fence?**
- 4 They plot only to thrust me down from my place of  
 honour;  
 lies are their chief delight; ♦

**they bless with their mouth, but in their heart they curse.**

5 Wait on God alone in stillness, O my soul; ♦  
**for in him is my hope.**

6 He alone is my rock and my salvation, ♦  
**my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.**

7 In God is my strength and my glory; ♦  
**God is my strong rock; in him is my refuge.**

8 Put your trust in him always, my people; ♦  
**pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.**

9 The peoples are but a breath,  
the whole human race a deceit; ♦  
**on the scales they are altogether lighter than air.**

10 Put no trust in oppression; in robbery take no empty  
pride; ♦  
**though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

11 God spoke once, and twice have I heard the  
same, ♦  
**that power belongs to God.**

12 Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, ♦  
**for you repay everyone according to their deeds.**

**Refrain: Wait on God alone in stillness, O my soul.**

*O God, teach us to seek security,  
not in money or theft,  
not in human ambition or malice,  
not in our own ability or power,  
but in you, the only God,  
our rock and our salvation.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,

**As it was in the beginning,  
is now and shall be for ever.**

**Song:** ACF 81 Light of the World

1. Light of the world,  
You stepped down into darkness,

opened my eyes, let me see  
 beauty that made this heart adore You,  
 hope of a life spent with You.

*So here I am to worship,  
 here I am to bow down,  
 here I am to say that You're my God.  
 And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
 altogether wonderful to me.*

2. King of all days,  
 Oh so highly exalted,  
 glorious in heaven above;  
 humbly You came to the earth You created,  
 all for love's sake became poor.

*So here I am to worship,  
 here I am to bow down,  
 here I am to say that You're my God.  
 And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
 altogether wonderful to me.*

Bridge

And I'll never know how much it cost  
 to see my sin upon that cross.  
 And I'll never know how much it cost  
 to see my sin upon that cross.

*So here I am to worship,  
 here I am to bow down,  
 here I am to say that You're my God.  
 And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
 altogether wonderful to me.*

CCLI Song # 3266032  
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**The Collect for today,  
 the Third Sunday before Advent**

God, our refuge and strength,  
 bring near the day when wars shall cease

and poverty and pain shall end,  
that earth may know the peace of heaven  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **The reading is taken from Hebrews 9:24-28**

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God  
**Our hearts and our minds are open**

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **The reading is taken from Mark 1:14-20**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Homily

### **The invitation**

Come and follow me!

Do you remember when you were asked this question in your life?

In most of our daily life we follow different ideas or people, knowingly or unknowingly.

Entering a restaurant, the waiter asks you to follow him to your place which we will readily do because we trust him that he will be able to do so, just based on his role and since there isn't much cost involved on my side. In our vacations we follow guides through the museum, the city or even onto mountain tops and enjoy the skill, knowledge and experience of this person. As children we hopefully were able to follow our parents based on a fundamental trust in who they were and that they loved and cared for us. Can you imagine how detrimental it must be to one's whole life if you never experienced this natural trust and bonding? ...

As teenagers this natural trust to follow may have already been chipped in many of our lives and following parents may have become the opposite of cool. As adults, it is unusual to live in such a close discipleship and pictures of a sect or even the horrendous abuse in

times of a “Führer” come up when we hear about larger groups following one person.

Today, it seems that we have developed an ambivalent mindset, with everyone insisting on MY freedom and self-determination, but nevertheless millions sign up as followers of celebrities of the new media, seeking some form of guidance and inspiration for their lives but are often left with only a deep sense of inadequacy and loss, increasingly experiencing a fear of missing out and no direction.

How do you react when you hear “come and follow me”?

How can we respond to Christ’s invitation today, nearly 2000 years after it was spoken?

There are many reasons to hesitate.

How can I follow a God being claimed by so many different and disunited churches, many of them stained with the blood of their past?

How can I follow Christ when Christianity may resonate badly in my own life story?

How can I follow the Son of God when news and possibly even the world around me provides much evidence that this love story as the bible tells us cannot be true?

How can I follow anybody in a world which makes it increasingly difficult to answer Pontius Pilate’s question what is truth because it is not even regarded a value itself anymore?

Maybe I miss the invitation because of my busy schedule, thousands of plans occupying my mind and heart? Sorry – no time...

Or, why should I follow anyone else as I am doing really well right now? I am content with the status quo. Why should I rock the boat by considering such an invitation which sounds like lots of uncertainty?

The bible is full of these invitations and it became clear to me that only by following this invitation we will experience our faith to be true, that is how central this invitation is on our life journey.

Already the Old Testament is full of the stories of people being called out of their lives to change and follow God's plan.

Abraham, Moses, King David and the Prophets are only the pillars in a multitude of people who followed him. Some more readily than others, none of them perfect but willing.

With this well-known historic background after a few centuries of silence, Christ called his disciples:

**Come and follow me!**

And the bible says they all dropped their chores and followed him immediately. How can this be?

I would like to address three questions, which seem to be important to me, to answer this:

Why would I follow anyone?

What does it involve to follow Him now?

Who is it that invited me to follow?

Why would I follow anyone?

The answer will differ between people and circumstances. Some of us may be more ready than others, but for myself I would say that the cause or person must be trustworthy, reasonable and beneficial. Trustworthy, reasonable and beneficial.

Before I will commit to the leadership of anyone, I will need to trust this person. This is probably the most essential basis and possibly the most difficult to be certain about when you are full of doubts. You would not follow a fish when you need to cross a desert nor a kangaroo when setting sail. We carefully look at our guide and his evaluation before the expedition into the jungle.

Hannah committed all her life to God and desperately prayed for a son. She was faced with many years of silence before God answered her wish; and when Samuel was born, she praised God

**Hannah: "there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God." (1 Samuel 2:2)**

It is the overwhelming evidence of His answer and presence in our life bringing forth such trust and

worship. And her son Samuel heard God's calling and after direction by his mentor Eli, recognizing the voice he became the one to call David to become king of Israel. (1 Samuel 2-3)

One important aspect is highlighted in the painting by Caravaggio:

The invitation is personal. While it is true for all, Christ is inviting YOU personally to follow him. As He invited Matthew to follow him, he invites you.

The final decision to follow and commit involves your heart, but I find it important that it passes also a rational examination. You may wonder, what was the rational argument that Sarai will still have a child being the age she was, that Moses will be able to lead Israel out of Egypt, that Christ will rise from the dead. God's truth stretches our brains and we should not exclude the possibility of miracles. However, I would not build my faith on a Cloud Cuckoo Land, miracles without evidence. Nathanael was doubtful before he met Jesus from Nazareth "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" he asked when he was invited to come and see Jesus by his friend Philip. And when he saw how deeply Jesus knew him even before they met, he was overwhelmed and confessed: "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." (John 1:49)

He needed to see like Thomas needed to touch the wounds of the risen Christ later, but the evidence extinguished any doubt and made both life-long followers to witness "heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (John 1:51)

It is the personal encounter with Jesus who knows us so intimately.

And finally, I think it helps that there is a promise connected with such a decision to follow, the promise of something greater, something good to come when responding "Yes". You wouldn't want to spend your life following an idea or someone if there is no hope or promise.

Abram long before he became Abraham was told



by the Lord, "Go from your country, ... to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; ...; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him." (Gen12:1-4)

Encountering the presence of God, as the great "I am" in the burning bush by Moses, sitting on his throne as Isaiah did (Isaiah 6:8-9) or in the person of Christ was the reason the great witnesses in the bible dropped everything and followed Him and were willing to give their lives into His hands. Their choice was built on a prepared faith ready to welcome God's invitation and trusting the promises despite expected hardship.

So, what does it involve to follow Him now?

We need to be

Open and prepared to meet an awesome God

Not hanging on our own agenda

Open again and again to change and growth

Open and prepared to meet an awesome God

Many of us struggle to encounter God in a personal and real way. Perhaps you feel the bible stories are just nice but seem to be a bit dusty, not speaking to you and definitely not to drop everything and follow Him. I have not seen a burning bush like Moses or God sitting on a throne after I stopped getting excited by the pictures in my children's bible.

Prepared doesn't mean that you are a faith champion. Christ didn't choose perfect people, didn't go for the winner, but asked for an open heart, the willingness to be born into a new life, connected to Him like the branches to the vine. One of the sad stories in the bible is the story of the rich young man, many of us may very much sympathize with, having done so much right, just not taking the last step of giving up material independence and therefore losing it all. This story

moved me and I felt often like him. Christ himself it says loved him and was sad.

There were very few moments in my life when I would say that I was in the presence of God, like the mountain top experience John, James and Peter had with Christ. But these moments were gifts of joy, of majesty, of awe, strong rocks in the sea of daily doubts, struggles and long stretches of waste land. If you have such moments cherish them.

If you are seeking him, hold onto it because God has promised again and again:

*“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”*  
(Deuteronomy 4:29, Jeremiah 29:13, Proverbs 8:17, Matthew 7:7, Luke 11:9)

I believe this promise to be true from all what I have learned in my life with Him. Seeking Him with all my heart requires to jump into the water before you know whether you will be able to swim, to trust, to commit even before you experienced the full truth of His kingdom. It is like falling in love and allowing this develop into a true love relationship by walking closely with Him.

*“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”* John 14:23

God Father and Son will make their home in the hearts of the people who love and obey his teaching. What a source of power and hope even in dark moments! Still, there are so many people, even here, seeking and just finding a silent God. I don't know the answer to the silence, but to hold onto his promise to answer.

Not hanging on our own agenda

*At once they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1:18)*

The disciples dropped their nets and just left their old lives behind to go onto the journey with Christ. That is radical. It may sound like too much, but: Do I have my priorities right? Am I allowing His love to touch me so deeply? Am I allowing Him to enter my day for more

than ten minutes between coffee and leaving the house?

Will I be willing to give up habits which will interfere with my walk with Jesus?

For a long time, I have not read the bible regularly, not made prayer a consistent part of my day, there were times in my life when church was not on my mind on Sunday morning. I assume this will happen to many of us at some point. There are times in our Christian walk when we walk closer and when not, but from my experience I noticed how important it is not to let these times go on for too long. Corona times may have been a dry valley for some of us. Following him clearly means seeking His presence in His word, in prayer and in fellowship. Especially the latter is so important, don't let go of seeking friends you can openly share faith with, worship together and cry together. Alpha courses have been a turning point in many lives. To be able to celebrate Sunday service in person again is a true blessing in my eyes.

Open again and again to change and growth

Following Christ has never been the promise of an easy problem-free life, and in John it says many left him therefore (John 6). Life in Christ requires change and growth. But He has promised His presence alongside us: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Christ has not called the righteous but sinners (Matthew 9:13) not to remain sinning but to learn to Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' and to 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39)

The disciples weren't changed people from the day they were called into discipleship, but had to renew their commitment again and again. One of the touching moments is when Peter who was one of the first to be

called, after denying Christ three times at his darkest time in life was asked three times by the risen Christ (John 21): “Simon son of John, do you love me?” And what was Christ’s final word to Peter?

Follow me!

And so are we reinvited to follow him and share the good news of His love. This reinvitation is elementary. None of us will just follow all our lives once invited. Almost all of the apostles lost their lives because of following him and obeying his commands.

What a witness of a lifechanging experience.

Who is it that invited me to follow?

The long-awaited Messiah  
The Son of God who loved us so much that he died for us  
The one who will appear a second time, to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Besides my readiness, the crucial deciding factor is the one who is asking me to follow.

The long awaited Messiah

All the disciples were Jews who knew their Old Testament, the promise by the prophets of a Messiah coming to free the Jewish nation from all oppression. They would recognize scripture fulfilled when blind started seeing and lame walking. No wonder that it was completely overwhelming for them to encounter him in the person of Jesus during the time of Roman oppression. The liberation, however, turned out

different than expected by some and has extended way beyond the Jewish nation and that period.

Now we have an even greater promise in the New Testament.

The Son of God who loved us so much that he died for us

It is the incredible story that the everlasting, omnipresent creator of the universe loved you and me so much that he gave his only Son to live and die for me. You may want to read the Gospel of John, the letter to the Romans and Philippians and I hope you can still experience the revolutionary good news through all the thicket of familiarity and antiquity.

This same son of God prayed not only for the disciples around him but actually for you and me:

“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John17:20-21)

In the same gospel we will read about this Jesus:

I am the “bread of life, the light of the world; the gate to be saved and find pasture; the good shepherd; the resurrection and life, the way, the truth and the life and the true vine”. (John 6:35, 8:12, 10:9, 11:25, 14:6 and 15:1)

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. (John 15:11)

What a promise of love and joy in the unity with Him!

The one who will appear a second time, to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

As we just heard in the letter to Hebrews, one day Jesus Christ our saviour will return. A chapter of the bible hard to grasp, when talking about the destination of the world. Facing many challenges especially with the climate change it is important to understand and to take serious our stewardship of this world but trust Him who said: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16: 33)

Lord, 2000 years ago you called the first apostles into your discipleship. Since then, billions have heard your voice and confessed their faith in you. Of many we have never heard and will not hear.

Lord, let my faith be kindled into a strong fire again today by the powerful evidence of the many changed lives. Take my life and make it a witness of Your work in me to others.

Holy Spirit, come and fill me as I come before you to follow you. Do not be silent but speak the words so I may be free.

Lord, if I have been struggling for a long time to drop everything and follow you, give me the insight into your Story, a heart prepared to fully trust in what you have already done through the life and death of Jesus and a faithful expectation in your plans and promises to prosper me and not harm me.

AMEN

**Song: ACF 132 Will you come and follow me**

<https://youtu.be/o469PRLdbHU>

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.

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### Intercessions (by Judith)

Everlasting God, open our eyes, that we might see you.  
 Open our ears, that we may hear you. Open our  
 mouths, that we might speak your praise.

In Mark's gospel you call on us to repent, believe in the  
 good news, and follow you.

Simon, Andrew, James and John did just that. They  
 heard your teachings and were in awe of your words,  
 your care, your compassion, your love, your different  
 sense of justice. When you called them to follow you,  
 they left everything behind, and became fishers of  
 people, helping spread the good news. Help us to take  
 that step forward, to get to know you more intimately,  
 and experience the power of your love.

Will you come and follow me?

**Let us turn and follow Jesus**

Nowadays many people perhaps more spontaneously  
 associate following with Instagram, Twitter or  
 Facebook, not following Jesus. Some of us demand  
 more proof, more facts. Something like this: If I can feel  
 you at work in my life then I am willing to try to commit  
 to follow you, but show me first that you are 100%  
 there. Simon, Andrew, James and John heard your call  
 and understood this: Come, follow me with what talents  
 and resources you have and I will show you how I can  
 work powerfully in your lives and transform them  
 through love. They wholeheartedly embraced that  
 challenge. How powerful and poignant are the words of  
 the song: 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?

Will you come and follow me?

**Let us turn and follow Jesus**

We pray for those in positions of leadership that they too, would know the truth you spoke of and embrace this in their dealings with others. Please grant them good judgment, wisdom and integrity as they face the many problems and conflicts confronting them. May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders of COP26 as they seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society. Instill in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the poorest and most vulnerable, and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.

Will you come and follow me?

**Let us turn and follow Jesus**

We give thank that you are present in our homes and lives and ask for your blessing on all who through their talents, generosity, love and compassion have enriched our lives. We pray for loved ones and friends in trouble or need. We pray for those who are ill in body or mind, those suffering loss and are grieving. Those who have had bad news and are in distress. PAUSE Lighten their darkness and bring comfort. Let the radiance of your presence be a light to our path and a guide on our journey.

Will you come and follow me?

**Let us turn and follow Jesus**

God of hope give us grace to trust you in the darkness as well as in the light. Give us a mind to know what is good and true. Give us a will to be faithful to you and follow you. Give us a heart to love and serve you. Let us hold your truth in our hearts and of this give freely to others. AMEN



*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their heart be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

Words and Music | Copyright Daniel L. Schutte  
and New Dawn Music

## Prayer and Blessing



Father of all,  
you have given us your Son  
to be the Saviour of the world.  
Welcome us your children into your kingdom  
to enjoy your presence now and for ever.

In trust we ask for your blessing:  
May the Father from whom every family  
in earth and heaven receives its name  
strengthen us with his Spirit in our inner being,  
so that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
come upon us and remain with us always.  
**Amen.**

## Announcements

(see below)

## The Conclusion

**God of power,  
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,  
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,  
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and  
worship you now and always.**

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
in the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Postlude

Sources of the liturgy:

- <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/common-material/new-patterns-36>
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/common-material/new-patterns-34-J23>

Look forward to our next service

with Daphne Norwood

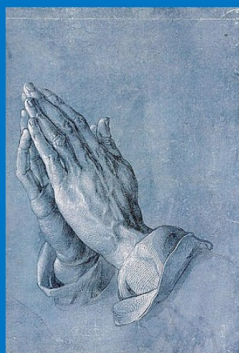
14th November 2021

The Second Sunday before Advent

11:30 hrs, Zoom link see website

and in person in the church 😊

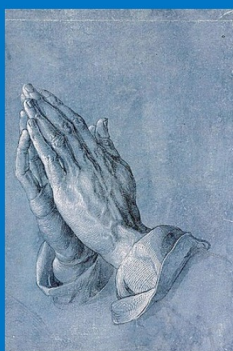




### Evening Prayer on Wednesdays

10th November 2021  
9pm (for 20-30min)

(Please use the usual  
Sunday service link.)



### Women's Prayer Group

11th November 2021  
at 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

via zoom (Please get in  
touch to receive the link.)

ANGLICAN CHURCH FREIBURG  
12th December 2021

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