

The 5th Sunday after the Epiphany
February 10, 2019
The Rev. Jedediah D. Holdorph
Trinity Episcopal Church, Bend

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 4:21-30

Marianne (scheduled preacher) not here → some reflections to share¹

And the God's honest truth: I'm not ready, ill-equipped (no contingency sermon in hand)

An apt intro. to today's readings

Chosen to go together – **all of them are call stories**

- ... Isaiah, often used at ordinations (echoes of last week's Jeremiah 1:4-10)
- ... St. Paul in 1 Cor. (road to Damascus) and fishermen who leave everything
- ... and **none of them were ready** (none felt worthy or prepared; all ill-equipped)
- ... Isaiah and Paul and Peter ("*mysterium tremendum* and *fascinans*"?)
- ... quote from David Lose suggests more than Peter's moral failingsⁱ
- ... PLUS, recall Peter called first to set out into the deep (he was also tired)

Already hinted that clergy likely find resonance in these stories

- ... recall a moment when God first seemed to call on us (call on our lives)
- ... but not just one call that sent me packing to seminary and ordination
- ... also various calls on seasons across life → calls for passing moments
- ... recall some of my experiences (doubts, anxieties, overwhelmed, etc.)
- ... even "preaching" here this morning and off to Condega (apprehensive)

And after every moment/every call, the way ahead is uncertain – no guarantees

- ... verses that follow in Isaiah suggest indifferent response (won't give a damn!)
- ... St. Paul could hardly have imagined
- ... disciples didn't know what would follow → Hymnal #661ⁱⁱ

Clergy resonate with these readings ... but they're not primarily for "us" (they're for all of us!)

My biggest decisions have shared some of that feeling in response to a call on my life

- ... marriage/parenthood, etc. → respond when feeling ill-equipped, inadequate
- ... so I presume to suggest that the same is true for you – any of us; all of us
- ... invite you to think back over the course of your life (and calls upon you)
- ... end "The Summons" (sung at 10:15)ⁱⁱⁱ

¹ There's no text this morning, as none was prepared. Here's an outline that approximates what I said today.

ⁱ David Lose @ <http://www.davidlose.net/2019/02/epiphany-5-c-lots-to-love/>:

It's easy, I suppose, to attribute Peter's confession to a lack of self-esteem, or an appropriate confession of sinfulness in the presence of the sinless One. But I think that each time we experience sheer grace, we are simultaneously joyful and a little afraid, struck by how much more we've received than we deserve or even imagined. Wondering how such blessings came our way and realizing we are caught up in something so much bigger than ourselves.

And I love what Jesus says to him: "Do not be afraid." Note that Jesus' doesn't say, "you are forgiven." Which is perhaps a little odd, in that Peter just said that he's a sinner, yet also wonderful, as it reminds us that Jesus forgives sin, for sure, but also offers so much more. In this case, comfort and encouragement.

ⁱⁱ Text of hymn (sung this morning to introduce today's gospel):

They cast their nets in Galilee
Just off the hills of brown
Such happy simple fisherfolk
Before the Lord came down

Contented peaceful fishermen
Before they ever knew
The peace of God That fill'd their hearts
Brimful and broke them too.

Young John who trimmed the flapping sail,
Homeless, in Patmos died.
Peter, who hauled the teeming net,
Head-down was crucified.

The peace of God, it is no peace,
But strife closed in the sod,
Yet, brothers, pray for but one thing—
The marvelous peace of God.

ⁱⁱⁱ Text of hymn sung after this morning's homily/reflections:

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 leave your self 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?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ner 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?

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?

Christ, 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?