

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany – January 18, 2026

Call to Worship

Come and see!

We come to see for ourselves who this Jesus person is.

Come and see!

We come with open hearts to experience Jesus.

Come and see!

We come to follow Jesus.

Come and see!

We come to deepen our relationship with God.

Come and see!

Yes, Lord we come to follow you!

~ posted on Lutheran Retreats, Camps, and Conferences. <http://lrcchome.com/>

Hymn

Fairest Lord Jesus

375

1. Fairest Lord Jesus, Lord of all creation, Jesus, of God and Mary the Son: thee will I cherish, thee will I honour, O thou my soul's delight and crown.	2. Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the verdure and bloom of spring. Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes the saddest heart to sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, fair is the shimmering, starry sky: Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines clearer than all the heavenly host on high.	4. All fairest beauty heavenly and earthly, wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee; none can be nearer, fairer or dearer than thou, my Saviour, art to me.

"Fairest Lord Jesus." Words (German) by Anonymous. Translation by Lilian Stevenson.
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Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God, our Creator and Redeemer,
your faithfulness endures forever.

You offer us new life in Christ Jesus and call us to follow him.

You challenge us to bring life and hope to the world you love.

In you we find strength and courage to face every challenge.

And so we offer our praise and gratitude to you, O God,
with Christ and the Spirit, one God, now and always.

Assured of your loving-kindness we confess to you our sins:

**Faithful God,
you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost
yet it's hard to recognize we have lost our way.
We seek the next new thing instead of your gift of new life.
We follow the trends of our culture rather than Jesus' example.
Wash over us with your cleansing Spirit and renew our commitment
to follow your purposes revealed in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Worship Planner. Second Sunday after Epiphany. January 18, 2026. Year A.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, you are forgiven in Christ, the Lamb who bears our sin.
Happy are those who put their trust in God, and delight to do God's will,
for God makes our footing sure upon the rock of Christ. Amen.

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press. P49.

Prayer for Understanding

Holy One, you have blessed your people with wisdom over the ages. We seek your wisdom today. Send your Holy Spirit now, to give us understanding through your Word read and proclaimed this day.

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Scripture Reading John 1:29-42

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came 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 who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed!). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

Message Come and See

Ken and I have just come home from a vacation to Costa Rica. I know that going away for two weeks in the middle of winter, especially when you know your neighbour is taking care of the snow on your driveway is a privilege that not all get to experience, but we are deeply grateful that our lives now allow for this. The reason for the vacation was to get away from responsibilities and be renewed, but it was also an opportunity to learn and experience another people, country, and culture. Many countries are happy to extend an invitation for others to “Come and See” their part of the world and Costa Rica is one of them.

The invitation to “come and see” can be as broad as going to another country or as simple as an invitation to a movie. Whenever we are excited about something we will find a way to invite others to “come and see”. Come and see the new baby. Come and see our home. Come and see my friend or family, my new dog, cat, or other pet or animal that has become part of our lives or that of those we love.

And that is what basically happens in our scripture reading from John 1:29-42 where John the baptizer introduces those with him to Jesus. He witnesses to the fact that this man Jesus is the Son of God. He tells the people around him what he saw at Jesus’ baptism and he is not shy about letting people know about Jesus. A day later he even tells his own followers that this man they see is the Lamb of God and when they heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Jesus was not a threat to John’s authority; he was the reason for all that John had said and done prior to this and now it was time for people to let go of John and follow Jesus.

Jesus, seeing that he is being followed, naturally asks a question, “What are you looking for?” and rather than answering directly they ask a question back... “Teacher, where are you staying?” The questions are great. Questions are a place where curiosity can abide. Often people are looking for immediate answers to their questions but when we just sit with questions and ponder questions for a time we are often invited into mystery and complexity, wonder and possibilities.

Through the work we have been doing as a church community we have been using the phrase, “Let’s be curious about that.” It is not a cop out but rather an invitation to wonder, explore possibilities, try out some things and say again, “Let’s be curious about that.”

In this scripture reading, John’s disciples, one unnamed and another introduced as Andrew, ask questions, but they are questions that one might see as being curious about this Jesus. And Jesus said to them, “Come and see.” Now they went to where he was staying but then remained with him all that day. The curiosity led Andrew to find his brother and say to him, “We have found the Messiah, and he brings Simon to Jesus. If we were to continue reading in the Gospel of John, we would later find Philip telling Nathanael to *come and see* Jesus. And even further on in the gospel the woman

at the well would tell others in her community to *come and see* the man who knows everything about her even though she has just had a short conversation with Jesus.

This is one of the take-aways for us in this gospel, it is the invitation to *come and see*. A few things to think about, first of all is that, even for those of us who have been part of the church for a long time, we are invited to *come and see* Jesus, not only in the church, but in our lives everyday. We become witnesses to what Jesus is up to in the world through God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

To that end, it might be important for us to pay attention to what God is and has been up to in our own lives...to name it. It also becomes an exercise in seeing in what ways our lives separate us from God through our words, thoughts, and actions that do not aid us in being the image bearers of God that we hope to be. Image bearers in the sense that we love and have compassion for others and the world. Not image bearers in the sense that we hold power and authority, but that as human beings we have a sense of justice and mercy that sees all and every life as sacred and having immense value. Living in the world in ways that bring dignity to all we meet and brings about change for those who suffer indignity.

And before we go on to talk more about this, I would like you to take a few minutes to ponder why it is that you come to church, what draws you to this place and to worship.

So, what is it that brings you to church? Any reason you have is a valid one. Some come because it feels like home, a safe space. Some people come for community. Those and more are wonderful reasons to be part of the church. I also pray that, if it is not so already, at some point it will be because of Jesus. That you come to see not only your community, but to see Jesus. To love Jesus and be loved by Jesus.

This invitation to *come and see* is about finding relationship, being in relationship with Jesus and with each other. Recently an article was published in the Bayview magazine about our church and through that writing we hope that people will "come and see" what St. Andrew's is doing and what we are about. So, we should know what we are about. First and foremost, we are to be about love, God's love, the love of Jesus for each person. Yes, we are doing a lot of things and being curious about how we be the church and how we be the church in community, but it starts with love and relationship.

Anyone of us here today should first know that we are loved by God and by one another even if we are strangers to each other. God's love through Jesus supersedes anything else. That is our primary work as the church and followers of Jesus is to point to love. From there we learn about one another and from one another. We build relationships of trust that reflect the uniqueness and value of each individual. However, we can never lose sight of the fact that the reason for the church is not the building or what ever project we are up to, the reason for the church is people and learning to be in relationship with God and one another. Anything else make us another service organization.

The church is to stand out from that as a place of hope, peace, joy, and love that goes beyond our understanding to a place of amazing mystery and transformation of lives. If and when people enter into the church they are seeking something. Often, they are seeking meaning and purpose and if we demonstrate the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit in the ways we are called to, then all this will lead people to lives that feel whole. They know they matter. We will never do this perfectly but we still strive to create this kind of world and this kind of safe haven in our church community.

It starts with the invitation to *come and see*. *Come and see* who we are. *Come and see*. You don't need to say much else except meet them here. Let them come with curiosity and when they do come, let our response be love and relationship within this family we call the church and with Jesus as we live out our vocation as image bearers of God's love and light. In Christ, with Christ and through Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People

God of purpose and promise, we open our hearts to you in prayer, trusting in your mercy to bear the burdens we carry.

We thank you for the work and witness of your Church, bringing your Good News into many lives and situations throughout the earth. Today we pray for the unity of the church and that where we are divided you will unite us, where our witness has grown weak you will strengthen us where we are in error, you will correct us.

We pray for congregations that are in ecumenical shared ministries, and feeling the renewal of your Spirit.

Guide them with your grace.

We thank you for the healing that comes from your hand, O God, in times of reconciliation when your forgiving love is at work, and in times when pain is eased and grief is comforted.

Today we pray for those whose emotions are raw, for those whose bodies are weakened and for any whose minds are troubled in any way.

Give them hope for new life with you.

We lift to you people around the world who work for justice and unity to prevail in the midst of division: in nations where conflict has broken out or repression rules, in places facing poverty, famine or destruction from disaster, and anywhere racial and ethnic disparities weaken common life.

Send your justice to bring relief and your peace to help understanding prevail.

As the followers of Jesus, give us the courage to unite not only in prayer but also in action for the needs of this world.

Strengthen us to work together, despite our differences, so others may see what it means to follow you in Christ's name.

And so we join in the prayer Jesus taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Invitation to the Offering

When John sees Jesus and announces, "Behold, the lamb of God," we are reminded that God no longer requires an offering as was done in the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus was the offering for our very lives. The offering we give today represents the offering of our lives and giving in response to God's presence and saving grace and what that means for us now.

Check out the opportunities to financially support St. Andrew's ministry at our website, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Thunder Bay, ON – Part of the PCCWeb network of churches

Hymn	<i>Open my eyes, that I may see</i>	500
1.	Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see; open my eyes: illumine me, Spirit divine!	2. Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear, and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see; open my ears: illumine me, Spirit divine!
3.	Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see; open my heart: illumine me, Spirit divine!	

"Open my eyes, that I may see." Words by Clara H. Scott. Public domain.

Benediction

Open your hearts to what God has revealed and have the courage to follow.
May God's Spirit aid us in our journey,
so that like John, our words and deeds point to the Lamb of God.
For those who are suffering, may we point others to Christ through comfort.
For those who are hungry, may we point to Christ through bread.
For those in the grip of despair, may we point to Christ through hope. Amen.