



## Welcome to Prayer and Peace ...

A service that encourages us to listen to God through His Word & Spirit, while praying for the needs of our Community, the World and each other.

**Led by Revd Natasha Brady**

### **Gathering Prayer**

Almighty God, you speak to us in so many ways.  
Help us, in our worship today, to hear your voice and  
know it is you.  
Speak to us in the silence, through Scripture and by the Spirit.  
Speak through others and through your creation,  
through images, experiences, music and encounters.  
Speak in ways that we can understand.  
So, speak, Lord – and help us to listen.  
Amen.

**Song**      Open the eyes of my heart Lord

Performed by Paul Baloche, © 1997 Integrity Hosanna Music/ASCAP; iWorship.

**Dwelling in the word** John 1. 43-51, video by Sam Hargreaves, [engageworship.org](http://engageworship.org)

**43** The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, 'Follow me.' **44** Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. **45** Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.'

**46** 'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked. '**Come and see,**' said Philip.

**47** When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, 'Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.' **48** 'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig-tree before Philip called you.'

**49** Then Nathanael declared, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.' **50** Jesus said, 'You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig-tree. You will see greater things than that.' **51** He then added, 'Very truly I tell you, you will see "heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on" the Son of Man.'

**Sermon** by Nigel Lowe

### **Reflective Song** *Spirit of the Living God*

*Performed by Martin Smith © Smith United Limited 2020; Gloworks.*

**Intercessions** led by Deb Whittaker

Response: Through our lives and by our prayers, **Your Kingdom Comes.**

### **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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

**Song** One thing remains

*Performed by Martin Smith © Smith United Limited 2020; Gloworks.*

### **Final Prayer**

Lord, what we have learned this day – help us remember.  
Teach us to recognise your voice.  
Teach us how to see you in our lives and encounters.  
Help us to give others space so that they may hear you too.  
Amen.

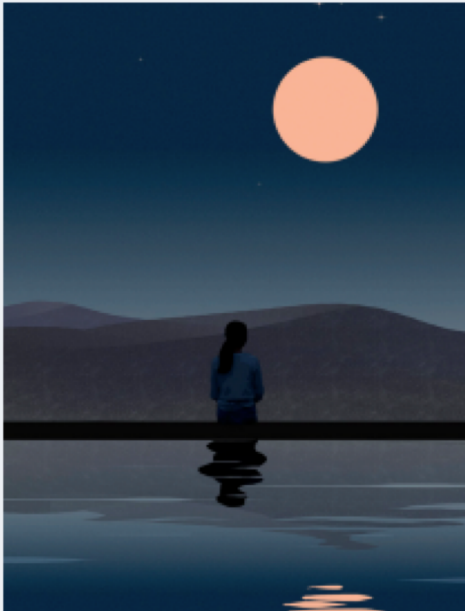
**Take Away Worship** - 'So will I, (100 Billion X)' - Hillsong Worship

# Going Deeper

## A note on the passage: John 1.43-end.

This is a story of two people encountering Jesus. Rather than try to persuade Nathanael that Jesus is the Messiah by clever arguments, Philip simply invites Nathanael to **'Come and see'**. Some of us are like Philip and ready to follow straight away, while some of us are like Nathanael – full of questions and needing to see and hear for ourselves. Are you more like Philip or Nathanael, or somewhere in between?

## Come



Jesus said that he knew Nathanael because he had seen him sitting under the fig tree. The fig tree is a symbol of peace, and it was common to sit undisturbed under its branches to meditate or pray. Where do you find peace? What helps you come to God in prayer? Perhaps you could go outside and find a sheltered spot by a tree, or maybe set aside a comfortable space in your house. Work out what environment best helps you to come, hear or see God. If you can't find/create the right environment, use this image to help you find peace and spend time with God.

## See

Philip invited Nathanael to 'Come and see'. We may not feel like we have the opportunity to see Jesus in the way that Nathanael did. But we can see God at work, and we can learn more about God from what we see every day. Choose a household object – ideally, do this in a group with others, or share your thoughts with others – and use it to explain something about the way you see God, e.g. a colander – God filters out what you don't need so that you are left with the good things. Share your object and idea, and discuss the various ways we can see God and what God is like.

## Hear

Listen to the sound clip at [vimeo.com/406653924](https://vimeo.com/406653924).  
What do you hear?

In a poll, 53% of people reported hearing the word 'Laurel' while 47% heard the word 'Yanny'. Different people listening to the same thing hear it completely differently. Think about, or discuss with others, how different people hear God in different ways. What helps you to hear God? How do you recognise what comes from God?



**You will need:** an empty container or jar, sticky notes or squares of paper, pencils.

Each evening, look back over the day and think of any moments when you heard God's call, or were aware of God's presence in your life or the lives of others. Write or draw a picture of what happened on a sticky note, fold it up and place it in the jar, giving thanks to God for that moment.

If you ever go through a time when God feels far away or absent, dip into the jar and pull out a sticky note to remind yourself of when you felt close to God.

## WATCH

Watch the film *The Snowman* [U] or look at the picture book by Raymond Briggs. The snowman's life is in two halves – in the first, James shows the snowman his world and in the second, the snowman shows James his. They each invite the other to 'come and see'. Talk to someone about your ways of connecting with and hearing God and ask them to show you theirs. How are they similar/different? What have you learned from each other? (As this is the week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18-25 January – you may like to talk to a Christian of a different denomination/tradition.)



Name \_\_\_\_\_



# ROOTS Activity Sheet

17-23 January 2021  
Epiphany 2

## John 1.43-51

Philip and Nathanael both have an unexpected encounter with Jesus.



Philip brought Nathanael to, 'Come and see.'



Can you unjumble the letters to find the two friends who met with Jesus?

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Philip brought Nathanael to hear from Jesus. Who would you bring to Jesus? Draw them into the picture.



Imagine you are Philip and write an invitation for Nathanael to come, see and hear Jesus.

