



# 10B EPIPHANY 2B – ONLINE LITURGY

Come, see, hear

## Abstract

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.

John 1:46-47 (NIV)

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## Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

*John 1:43–51 (NIV)*

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

<sup>44</sup> Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. <sup>45</sup> 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.”

<sup>46</sup> “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

<sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

<sup>48</sup> “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

<sup>49</sup> Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

<sup>50</sup> Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” <sup>51</sup> 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.”<sup>i</sup>

### *Response*

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## 10B Epiphany 2B – Online Liturgy

### Come, see, hear

Sunday, January 17, 2021 | Epiphany | Second Sunday after the Epiphany | Year B

<i>Old Testament</i>	1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20)
<i>Psalm</i>	Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18
<i>New Testament</i>	1 Corinthians 6:12–20
<i>Gospel</i>	John 1:43–51 <sup>ii</sup>

Today we hear about two friends who have an unexpected encounter with Jesus and initially react in quite different ways. Together, Philip and Nathanael help each other to understand who Jesus is and they begin a journey that will redefine who they are.

Nathanael is surprised that Jesus knows not only his name, but much about him too. Jesus knows each of us as individuals but sometimes, like Nathanael, we can wonder ‘Why would God be interested in me?’ Some of us will be, like Philip, keen to follow straight away. Some of us will be more like Nathanael – full of questions and concerns. This story shows that wherever we are, Jesus finds us and knows us. Are we looking and listening out for him – and helping others to do so?

**This week we explore:** how we help each other hear God.

	<b>Pre-Service</b>
	<p><b>Introit</b> TIS #368 (AHB 289) – “This is the day the Lord has made”</p>
	<p><b>Greeting</b></p> <p>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all</p> <p><b>and also with you</b></p>
	<p><b>We Gather</b></p> <p>We have come together into the presence of our Lord. So, let us quieten our hearts and minds,     put aside our concerns and distractions. Let us open ourselves to listen for God’s voice,     for the word God has for his people.</p> <p><b>Acknowledgements and paying our respects.</b></p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> 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.</p>

	<p>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.</p>
	<p><b>Hymn/song</b>          TIS #655 – “Spirit Song”          TIS # 447 – “Jesus calls us here to meet Him”</p>
	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><i>Let us pray</i>          Come, let us worship the Lord who made us,              who knows our every thought before it is formed.          See the one from whom nothing is hidden – hear him speak.          Come, let us worship and listen.          Amen.</p>
	<p><b>Readings</b>          John 1:43–51</p> <p><i>respond</i>          For the word of the Lord  <b>Thanks be to God</b></p>
	<p><b>Hymn/song/video</b>          TIS #717 – “Give thanks”      Smith          TIS #655 – “Spirit Song”</p>
	<p><b>We say Sorry</b></p> <p>A prayer of confession          Lord, we come before you to say sorry.              Sorry for all the times we’ve let you,              ourselves and others down.          Sometimes, Lord,              we’re so busy talking and doing that we fail to hear you.              We miss the still small voice saying, ‘Stop. Listen.’          Lord, we’re sorry for being too busy to hear you.</p> <p>You speak to us in so many ways, Lord,              one being through other people              but very often we take no notice              and continue in our own way.          Help us to tune in to your voice.          Lord, as you use others to speak to us,              so you use us to draw people to you.</p>

	<p>But speaking does not always require words.          People see our lives, our attitudes and character.              Lord, we're sorry for the times we've let you down in these areas                  When we pressurise others to conform to our ideas,          or fail to listen                  and give others the space to draw closer to you.</p> <p>Lord, as we spend these few moments in personal reflection,              we ask you to speak to us.          Show us anything for which we need to say sorry              and change our ways.          Lord, we lift our confessions to you, in your precious name.  <b>Amen.</b></p>
	<p><b>Words of Assurance</b>          Father God, we thank you that we don't have to earn your forgiveness.          It is not based on how worthy we are.          We are forgiven through Christ Jesus.          It is by grace that our sins are forgiven.  <b>Thanks be to God</b>          Amen.</p>
	<p><b>Hymn/Song</b>          TIS #597 (AHB #516) – "Master, speak, thy servant heareth"          Tis #607 – " Make me a channel of your peace"</p>

## Response

### Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?

John 1:43-51

There was recently a huge celebration in a village in northern Nigeria

    They were celebrating changing the name of their town.

The old name of the town can be translated as "Area of Idiots."

    I can't imagine why they wanted to change it.

The new name is "Area of Plenty."

Local leaders announced the change after residents complained

    that they had been bullied for years.

They said "It was shameful telling people outside I come from the 'Area of Idiots,'".

The village, in Kano state in Nigeria,

    got its name about 70 years ago

        when the people settled close to a river known as the Idiotic River.

I have no idea how a river became known as the Idiotic River. It sounds Idiotic. <sup>iii</sup>

Before you laugh too loudly,

    think of the names of some towns you've lived in.

I grew up in an area called Riana, near Penguin in Tasmania.

I read this week about an American town called Knockemstiff, Ohio?

    You might suppose this was a very violent town

But the name doesn't refer to fighting but to the strength of the local moonshine

    Knockemstiff.

I'm sure you're saying about now, "well Jim, that's interesting  
but what has that got to do with today's reading."

Well, stay awake, and I'll see how I go 😊.

In our reading today, Philip encounters Christ  
and it leaves a profound impression.

So, he goes to his friend Nathanael and says

"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."

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

We get it that Nathanael wasn't very impressed with Nazareth.

While it doesn't have an embarrassing name like Area of Idiots or Knockemstiff,  
there was obviously nothing impressive about Nazareth.

And yet, Nazareth was chosen by God, the creator of the entire universe  
as the village where God's own Son would spend his childhood and youth.

It's so like God, isn't it,

to take an unimpressive village and unimpressive people  
and do really extraordinary things through them?

It's fairly easy to understand Nathaniel's summation of Nazareth.

This is where we are told Jesus preached his first sermon

Jesus has been in the wilderness, tempted by the devil.

Luke tells us that Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit,  
and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

But when he came back to Nazareth and went into the Synagogue and began to preach,  
his message quickly riled up his hometown listeners.

Jesus says "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown."

We're not certain why Christ spoke in such a negative way to his hometown audience.

I suspect there was some background to this dialogue of which we are not aware.

Maybe there were some questions during his childhood about his unconventional birth.

Maybe he was bullied growing up in Nazareth.

Can you imagine, even in this town,  
what sort of life a boy would have, if he continually turned the other cheek.

Whatever the reason,

we are told they took him out of the town and to the brow of the hill  
in order to throw him off a cliff.

Jaccy, better get ready to make a run for it  
in case I have given anyone here the same idea.

Fortunately, in this case it didn't happen.

Luke tells us, "But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way."

He doesn't include any details, but it's somehow hard to feel sorry for Nazareth.

They had Christ in their midst, and they didn't see it. Only a carpenter's son.  
 OK, there was obviously some hotheads there  
 but throwing a person off of a cliff over an unpopular sermon is a little extreme.  
 Still, there must have been some positive things about Nazareth  
 because God chose it as the place for Mary and Joseph to raise His son.

In my defence this morning can I say that, even Jesus didn't please everyone.  
 If you think you can sail through life with no one criticizing you,  
 no opposition, no one making hurtful remarks about you,  
 you're going to have a disappointing life.

Some years ago there was a young dancer whose dream was to dance on Broadway.  
 She practiced all the time, hoping that someday she would grace the stage.  
 One day, some of her friends got together and discouraged her so badly  
 that she not only gave up dancing, but she also decided to commit suicide.  
 She went to the Golden Gate Bridge but, before she jumped off, she wrote a note.  
 When the police found the note that read, "They said . . ."  
 The morning headline for the San Francisco Chronicle read  
 "Young aspiring dancer jumps to her death; cause unknown,  
 but something *they said* made her do it." <sup>iv</sup>

"They said . . ." Maybe her friends thought they were doing her a favour by discouraging her dream.  
 Maybe in their estimation, she wouldn't have made the grade.  
 Maybe their words were meant as a kind of intervention.  
 But who knows?  
 Be very careful when you step on somebody else's dream.

"They said . . ." Even Jesus had his critics.  
 Remember his own mother and brothers were concerned  
 that he was going off the deep end with his teaching.  
 It is quite probable that, as people in his town learned some of his views as a young adult,  
 he faced a bit of criticism.  
 It's important for us to see that even Jesus couldn't please everyone all the time.

But Jesus stayed true to his values.  
 Do you think everyone in town agreed with him when he said to turn the other cheek?  
 Do you think that people liked it when he used Samaritans  
 the very people his neighbours despised most—as heroes in some of his teachings?  
 Do you really think that racial and religious bigotry are a new phenomenon?  
 And his teachings on wealth?  
 Do you think the upper middle-class people liked hearing  
 that the rich bloke ended up in Hades and the poor beggar Lazarus  
 ended up in heaven?  
 Even today, we find some of Jesus' teachings confronting,  
 but Jesus stayed true to his values—even when people got upset.  
 Even when they threatened to throw him off a cliff.  
 Even when they threatened to nail him to a tree.  
 Somehow, we expect that of Jesus, don't we? We expect him to stay true to his values.  
 But, do we expect it out of ourselves? That's the real question.

There's a story about a church that was seeking to hire a new pastor.

after meeting him or her, they took a vote.  
After they voted, they informed the pastor they were hired.  
They told the new pastor the vote was “almost unanimous.”  
This alarmed the pastor, so he asked, “What was the vote?”  
They said the vote was 230 yes and 2 votes no.

The new pastor became obsessed with trying to find out who the two no votes were.  
When he found out who the two were,  
he spent the next six months trying to please those two people.  
At the end of the year, when the church was reviewing the pastors service  
the church voted again and fired the pastor.  
This time the vote was 230 to fire him and 2 votes to keep him.  
The two people he sought so hard to please, voted for him  
which highly displeased the rest of the congregation.<sup>v</sup>  
That pastor hadn't been called to make 2 people happy,  
he'd been to minister to the entire congregation.  
He needed to stay true to his values.

Jesus stayed true to his values.  
He was sent by the Father to demonstrate a new way of living  
which he termed the Kingdom of God.  
His goal was to plant that kingdom in every heart.  
And he never wandered from that path.  
And because he did stay true, today, 1/3rd of the people on earth call him Lord.  
But, in the end, Nathanael does discover what can come out of Nazareth.  
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.”  
“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.  
“Come and see,” said Philip.  
When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him,  
“Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”<sup>vi</sup>

Jesus realizes that Nathanael is a person who is also true to his values.  
He's a quality young man.  
Jesus always appreciates people of character, people of integrity.  
“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”  
Then Nathanael takes a step that goes even beyond integrity.  
He declares, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

And Nathanael becomes a follower of Jesus.  
He discovered who Jesus really is and followed him.

Jesus already knew everything about Nathanael.  
Just as Jesus knows everything about us.  
We may not have it all together as Nathanael did  
except for his prejudice against people from Nazareth.



Still, Christ wants to have a relationship with us.

Are we willing to take that same step?

It makes no difference where you come from—even if it's Area of Idiots.  
It doesn't even matter what you've done with your life up to this point  
even if you've been terribly prejudiced toward the people of Knockemstiff.  
It's not too late for us to change.

God wants an eternal relationship with you.

All you have to do is say, Yes, I want to follow Jesus.

Amen

	<p><b>Hymn/song</b> TIS #658 – “Here I am Lord” Schutte</p>
	<p><b>Offering</b> Gracious and eternal God, we bring our gifts with hopeful and faithful spirits. Bless the offering of these gifts and our lives that new hope and new possibilities are made real in the lives of those whom we serve in your name. Amen.<sup>vii</sup></p>
	<p><b>Notices</b></p>
	<p><b>Prayers for all people</b></p> <p><i>Imagine having a conversation with Jesus.</i> <i>Where would you want to be?</i> <i>What would you want to say?</i> <i>What would you want him to say to you?</i> <i>How does that differ from your normal praying or is it the same?</i> <i>Reflect on the answers.</i></p> <p>We thank you, God, for those times when we have sensed your presence, heard your voice, seen new insights particularly when we have needed those things.</p> <p>Some of us, Lord, can't remember ever hearing your voice. Teach us how to make space, how to hear you and to recognise your presence with us, and how not to get in the way of others finding you. We ask for Jesus' sake.</p> <p><i>Rest to come</i></p>

	<p><b>Lord's Prayer</b>  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 <sup>viii</sup></p>
	<p><b>Hymn/song</b>  TIS #547 (AHB #455) – “Be thou my vision”</p>
	<p><b>We are sent out</b>  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.  <b>Amen.</b></p> <p>May the Lord bless us  and keep us  May His face shine upon us  and be gracious to us  May he lift up His countenance upon us  and give us peace</p>
	<p><b>Benediction</b>  Be still for the presence of the Lord  Dave Evans© 1986  Thankyou Music. All rights reserved. Used by permission</p>
	<p><b>Thank you</b></p>

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<sup>i</sup> [\*The New International Version\*](#). (2011). (Jn 1:43–51). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>ii</sup> [\*Revised Common Lectionary\*](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

<sup>iii</sup> Mansur Abubakar, [https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-africa-47639452?ns\\_mchannel=social&ns\\_source=twitter&ns\\_campaign=bbc\\_live&ns\\_linkname=5ddc01b6967804067c03cc65%26%27Idiots%27%20village%27%20residents%20celebrate%20new%20name](https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-africa-47639452?ns_mchannel=social&ns_source=twitter&ns_campaign=bbc_live&ns_linkname=5ddc01b6967804067c03cc65%26%27Idiots%27%20village%27%20residents%20celebrate%20new%20name).

<sup>iv</sup> Source: Anonymous. Hunter, Brian. *Illustrations That Connect: Over 100 Illustrations for preachers, teachers, public speaker, and writers to help you connect with your audience in a powerful and insightful way*. UNKNOWN. Kindle Edition.

<sup>v</sup> Unknown source

<sup>vi</sup> *Revised Common Lectionary*. (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife. (NIV translation)

<sup>vii</sup> © Jeff Shrowder 2000

<sup>viii</sup> English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988