

**Written Service Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2025**  
**A service of worship for use at home**  
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Nottingham North East  
Methodist Circuit  
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*Charity number 1134226*

Epiphany 5

Lectionary for today Luke 5:1-11. The great catch of fish.

All hymns are from Singing the Faith.

Some prayers are from Roots (Resources for churches) Jan-Feb 2025

**Call to worship**

Our God is holy, our God is mighty.

We gather in His house in awe at His presence.

Let us still our hearts and prepare to meet the Lord of heaven and earth.

Good morning and thank you that I can share some thoughts and reflections with you today.

**Hymn** StF 94 To God be the glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life our redemption to win,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord.*

*Let the earth hear His voice;*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,*

*Let the people rejoice;*

*Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,*

*And give Him the glory; great things He hath done.*

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,

To every believer the promise of God;

The vilest offender who truly believes,

That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Praise the Lord ...*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,

And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

But purer, and higher, and greater will be

Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

*Praise the Lord ...*

**A prayer of adoration and confession**

Blessings abound when you call us Lord, when we encounter you in expected and unexpected places, when you speak to our need, are balm to our woes, are a guide in our confusion, an anchor in our uncertainty, a challenge in our complacency and love beyond measure.

How can we not live in awe of all you are, have been and will be.

Holy God, we know that on our own we fail and fall, falter and stumble, but we know that with you we can be better. You called us to be the best we can be, and we know we have failed. We confess those failings and seek your forgiveness.

Holy God you hear our confession and we thank you that you have forgiven us.

Thanks be to God.

## Lord's prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## Reading - Luke 5:1-11

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,<sup>[a]</sup> the people were crowding round him and listening to the word of God. <sup>2</sup> He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.'

<sup>5</sup> Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'

<sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!' <sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.' <sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

## Talk

We recently had some major decorating at home and a whole host of trades people came to the house. Electrician, builder, joiner, plasterer, carpet fitter, double glazing fitters. You get the picture! They all made the jobs they did look very easy! I'm sure some were very well trained with City/Guilds, apprenticeships. They were skilled, and experienced and confident. It was completely out of my knowledge and capabilities. Psychologists call it 'unconscious competence' Meaning that these people have had so much practice and are skilled that it's second nature to them and can do their tasks easily

Well, I believe that the fishermen were like this.

The Sea of Galilee was the fishermen's workplace, The boats and nets were their tools.

I read a little around the work of fishermen in biblical times. The fishermen needed to understand the weather and the tides and where the best fishing areas were. They needed to understand the effects of the conditions. They had to be skilled in manoeuvring the boat.

Different nets were needed for catching certain fish in certain conditions.

These fishermen were physically strong and powerful. They didn't need to go to the gym or get their steps in! They worked long hours and very early mornings and also at night. All weathers. Yet these men were born to fish as the skills were passed down the generations from father to son. Yet, here we read that after an exhausting long night, they had caught nothing.

Jesus takes control and asks for the nets to be lowered and soon the boat was struggling to cope with the enormous catch of fish. The weight must have been huge. The other boat crew came to help. The fishermen and the watching crowds must have been flabbergasted.

What does it say about Jesus? He has something innate about him. The fishermen **obey** Jesus and are astounded by the catch of fish. It seems to me that Jesus has a ripple effect. He's here at the very centre of the ripple and then the fishermen are affected first, then the crowd watching and as the ripples extend, the catch of fish has an effect on the local community. People beyond would benefit, so we have more ripples. A lot of people were fed! They wouldn't have wasted all that good fish. The account would have spread around other communities and the region. Where do these ripples lead back to? They **ALL** lead back to Jesus.

Jesus is generous and doesn't do things by halves.

The fish caught were in abundance. The water into wine miracle, produced gallons of good quality wine, for example.

Is it a sign that many people will be 'caught' by Jesus? All are welcome.

Jesus then calls the disciples. Jesus doesn't choose the intellectuals, sophisticated, no eloquent orators or those from the highest social circles.

He chose, hardworking, skilled, honest to goodness ordinary men to help him. He then had a blank canvas to teach these men his way, the knowledge and skills he had learned from the scriptures and the prophets and His Holy Father, God. With Jesus teaching the disciples they would learn from the best! If Jesus calls these ordinary men, then we can all be assured we are all called by him too.

We have nothing to lose and everything to gain by obeying Jesus.

Simon knew and he obeyed. His life changed forever and history was made.

### Response

What does it mean for us today? We all have our life story to tell and we live and experience it, the good and bad. Whatever is going on, bring it to Jesus. He loves you in abundance and will never give up on you. Once you have been 'caught' you are in Jesus' care and are saved! You are free! The ripple effect is never ending with Jesus and remember He is at the centre of it.  
Amen.

### Hymn – StF447 Jesus be the centre

Jesus, be the centre  
Be my hope, be my song  
Jesus

*Be the fire in my heart  
Be the wind in these sails  
Be the reason that I live  
Jesus, Jesus  
Jesus, be my vision  
Be my path, be my guide  
Jesus*

Jesus, be the centre,  
Be my hope, be my song  
Jesus  
*Be the fire ...*

Jesus, be my vision,  
Be my path, be my guide,  
Jesus  
*Be the fire ...*

Jesus, be the centre  
Be my hope, be my song  
Jesus

### Blessing

Almighty God, you have given us a fresh glimpse of your glory and majesty.  
We are not worthy to walk with you, but you have made us clean.  
Send us out, in the power of your Holy Spirit, to speak your words and show your love.  
**Amen.**