



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

May 24-30, 2021

Sermon by Rev. Kelley Lane

TRINITY SUNDAY

Sermon Title: *"Trout Fishing In America"*

Notes from sermon on 5/23:

To pray for this week:

Family Focus Question

How can we listen for God's call? What can we do to make sure we don't miss it?

Questions for Small Groups

- 1) Tell us a past story of when you have heard God calling to you – how did you respond?
- 2) As you listen to our scriptures being read today, with whom do you most identify and why?
- 3) What do you hear God calling you to do now? How will you respond?

Monday, May 24: Read Matthew 4:18-22

Many of us spend a large part of our lifetime trying to find our "calling". We struggle with feeling inadequate, under-educated, and uninspired. We worry we might take the wrong path, leading us into an irreversible trajectory toward mediocrity, wasted opportunity, and irrelevance. How are we to know our calling? Which voices in our heart, head, and environment should we trust?

Today's gospel reading describing the call of Peter, Andrew, James, and John into a life of discipleship is shockingly and almost comically brief. Jesus didn't ask for resumes, check out their LinkedIn accounts, or recruit from the finest universities. He finds them on the shores of Galilee, fishing, and says, "Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people." They left their nets, boat, and even one assuredly bewildered father at once (at once!) and followed him. How did they know? How did Jesus know?

This week, we will explore the amazing truth that we are all being called by our triune God to go "fishing" for people for God's kingdom. On this Trinity Sunday, we will hear from Rev. Kelley Lane how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit work as three equal partners in the creation, redemption, and transformation of the world. We are vital, integral parts of that work. Are we ready to hear and take up the call?

Tuesday, May 25: Read Isaiah 6:1-8

Sometimes our calling comes as a straightforward ask, as in yesterday's gospel. Other times, it may come more mysteriously, symbolically, or in a form we are not expecting. Today's vision from the prophet Isaiah certainly falls into the latter category, including imagery many modern readers might find frightening and confusing. What is straightforward, however, is the prophet's response to the Lord's question, "Whom shall I send?" "Here am I," said the prophet. "Send me!" How many times have we noticed a desperate need in the world and thought, "Someone has to do something about this!" Maybe we keep running across images, subtle reminders, or seemingly random voices that bring it back to our consciousness. Here's the great news: we never have to decide our next step completely on our own. We are surrounded by the most powerful Board of Advisors in the universe: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. When was the last time we called a board meeting?

Wednesday, May 26: Read John 3:1-17

Is the world beyond saving? Even if the answer is no, are we too old, too unskilled, or too sinful to make a difference at this point in our lives? Nicodemus might have had the same questions when he came to Jesus by night. Jesus responds to Nicodemus's questions with some incredible statements. Not only is God not looking for the perfect track record of skills, accomplishments, and education; God is looking for people to be reborn from above, starting fresh with God at our center. Taking up a call is about letting go and letting God, not leveraging an accumulated lifetime of qualifications. In addition, it is through Jesus that the world will be saved, not our own intellect and efforts. We simply need to respond. Will we?

Thursday, May 27: Read Romans 8:12-17

When we take up Christ's call for the healing and transformation of God's kingdom, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit that gives us life and draws us into the loving, protective arms of our Father as beloved and protected children. Saying "yes" means coming home, not venturing out on our own. We can call on the power of our "family name" and constantly draw on the guidance of the Spirit who never leaves us. We can follow the example of our risen Savior who lives, died, and was resurrected for us. Our path is not guaranteed to be easy, but it is guaranteed to matter.

Friday, May 28: Read Psalm 29

Today's psalmist recognizes the voice of God everywhere. It's over the waters, in the thunder, in the woods, in the bleat of a calf. We can find God in the fire, in the wilderness, and in the heavens. Are we listening for God's voice, and ascribing it to God? Let us take some time today to listen...truly listen...for God's voice calling us to notice the suffering one, appreciate the miracle of nature, respond to the child, and say "yes" or "no" with peace and conviction. Let us take a moment to be silent...right now. What do we hear? What will we say back?

Saturday, May 29: Scripture Memorization: Isaiah 6:8

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I; send me!" (NRSV)

Sunday, May 30: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of

Common Confession: *Lord Jesus, we have come here this day searching for you, because we believe that you are searching for us. In countless ways you have reached out to us, tugged at our hearts, courted us, spoken to us. We confess that sometimes we have searched for you in all the wrong places. We admit, sometimes we have thought that we found you only to learn we have substituted cheap replacements for your deep and abiding love. Find us this day, Lord Jesus. Discover us anew so that we might find you and, in finding, love you, and in loving you, serve you in all that we do. Amen.*

(adapted from a prayer by Will Willimon)