

May 5, 2024 — Vocations Sunday— Bonni-Belle Pickard

Pre-service music:

Come to us, Creative Spirit — StF 726

Seek ye first — StF 254

All the room was hushed and still (StF 266)

Community of Christ — StF 681

A new commandment (StF 242)

==ORDER OF SERVICE==

Call to worship

Come to us, Creative Spirit — StF 726

Prayer

Scripture -- John 15:9-17

Reflections on Vocation

Seek ye first — StF 254

Interview with Kathy High

Reflection

All the room was hushed and still (StF 266)

Intercessions and Lord's Prayer

Community of Christ — StF 681

Benediction

A new commandment (StF 242)

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.
If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.
You are my friends if you do what I command you.
I do not call you servants any longer,
because the servant does not know what the master is doing;
but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you
everything that I have heard from my Father.
You did not choose me but I chose you.
And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last,
so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.
I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Today is Vocations Sunday in the Methodist Church.
A time when we consider again what God is calling each of us to do
 With the gifts and graces God has given us.
Some of you might be thinking:
 What gifts and graces?
 I'm not particularly talented in anything!
Or – I'm too old now to be of much use to the church or anyone –
 God didn't equip me to be a minister or an evangelist
 Or any of those 'churchy' things –
I'm just getting on with my life –

The reading we've just heard reminds us that our vocation as Christians,
 First and foremost, is to be sharing God's love with those around us –
And then perhaps always being on the lookout for how
 We might share that love in even wider circles –
 What we might call 'outreach' – or even mission evangelism.
Sometimes those words, 'mission evangelism' are a bit scary –
 We think of Billy Graham Crusades or missionaries in Africa or Asia,
But the verses we've heard don't speak of the grand and glorious
 Or even of going to far-off places
 Or even of financially supporting a string of helpful charities...
These verses speak of *abiding in God's love* – recognising that God loves each of us
 And has given each of us gifts...
And *loving* other people – using the gifts God has given us to love other people.

When we hear it like that, perhaps we can give ourselves more 'permission'
 To think about our personal vocation:
What are the gifts and graces God has given us,
 And how are we to share them with the God's world?

Most naturally we would start with sharing God's love with our family and friends –
 And then, as our own circles of interaction enlarge,
 Our opportunities for sharing with others also enlarge...
In a few moments, we'll be hearing from some who have see their work as 'vocation'
 How they use the gifts and graces God has given to share with the large world...

Seek ye first

How to share God's love with the world when our outside contacts have grown smaller?
 Most of those worshipping online are doing so because they can't easily get out...
What is our vocation when we are housebound?

Intercessions....

TTT – this time tomorrow –

How can we pray for those in our worshipping circle