

## EPIPHANY 2

### 17 JANUARY 2021



## Surprised By God



O God of surprises, we come together  
open to your promptings.  
We move our eyes from our ordinary  
lives to look heavenwards.  
Open our hearts, so that we might  
receive your love and be transformed.

### Opening Prayer

Loving God: Thank you for this day you  
have given us. May we see heaven  
opened wide as the day unfolds. Give  
us eyes to see... ears to hear... a mind  
to apprehend... and a heart open to  
receive all you have in store for us  
today.

Friend Jesus: Your invitation to follow  
you is compelling – Your wonders never  
cease to amaze us. Help us to turn  
away from distractions and falsehoods  
that we might single-heartedly desire  
you alone... and abide in your presence.

Holy Spirit: Fill us afresh today. Guide  
us into all truth that we might glorify you  
in all things... and give us the boldness  
to invite others... to “come and see”  
Jesus for themselves. **Amen.**

### Tune: TiS 111

Startle us, God, by the signs of your Spirit  
around us!  
Shake us awake for the thrust of your word  
to astound us!

Rattle our doors,  
give our discomfort no pause,  
rouse us for work you have found us!

Wake us to see where the winds of the city  
are blowing,  
facing the brokers of power where the  
currents are flowing,  
finding the lost,  
learning what justice may cost,  
feeling the pain of our growing.

Shock us by showing us Jesus, his style of  
direction,  
welcoming, never conventional in his  
selection,  
open our minds,  
teach us how prejudice blinds,  
colours our culture's reflection.

Startle us, God, into confident high  
expectation,  
knowing the hope and the promise of new  
revelation,  
taking your part,  
praising with mind and with heart,  
honouring all your creation.

*Shirley E. Murray* Words © 2006 Hope Publishing Company,  
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## 1 Samuel 3:1-10

**3** Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. **2** At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; **3** the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. **4** Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" **5** and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So, he went and lay down. **6** The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." **7** Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. **8** The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. **9** Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So, Samuel went and lay down in his place. **10** Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

### RECORDED MUSIC

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*Daniel L. Schutte ©*

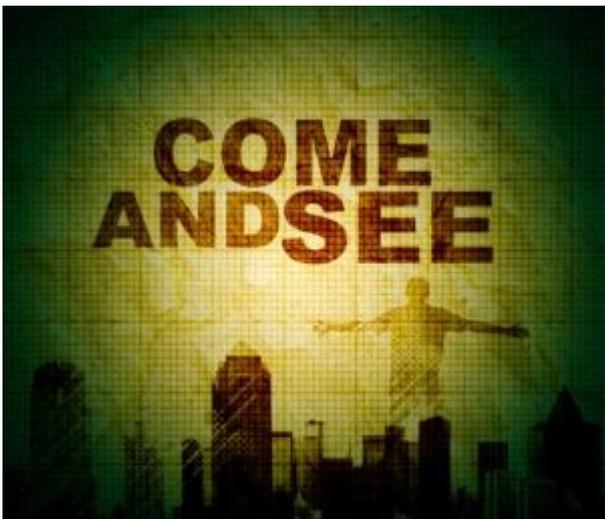


John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup> Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup> And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

In this we hear God's word for us today  
**Thanks be to God**

## REFLECTION



## SONG (Tune TiS 679)

Will you come and follow me  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown  
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean  
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

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## RESPONDING WITH OUR LIVES

Thuma mina.  
Thuma mina,  
thuma mina,  
thuma mina,  
Somandla.

Send me, Lord.  
Send me, Jesus,  
send me, Jesus,  
send me, Jesus,  
send me, Lord.

Lead me, Lord.  
Lead me, Jesus,  
lead me, Jesus,  
lead me, Jesus,  
lead me, Lord.

Fill me, Lord.  
Fill me, Jesus,  
fill me, Jesus,  
fill me, Jesus,  
fill me, Lord.

*Traditional South African*

Christ, as a light... illumine and guide me.  
Christ, as a shield... overshadow me.  
Christ under me; Christ over me;  
Christ beside me on my left and my right.  
This day be within and without me,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.  
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;  
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.  
This day be within and without me,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.  
Christ as a light; Christ as a shield;  
Christ beside me on my left and my right.

### PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Open our ears,  
Response: And teach us to listen

*(Lighting of candles)*

#### *The Disciples' 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.  
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.*

### SENDING OUT PRAYER