

ALL ARE CALLED

Today we are thinking about the Enduring Principle – ‘All are Called’. We’ve been using a series our young adults made for social media about the Enduring Principles. Here’s what they had to say about ‘All are Called’.

PLAY COFCHRIST YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL MEDIA POST – ALL ARE CALLED

<https://youtube.com/shorts/qKcCBboXZzI>

‘All are Called’ means each one of us has a part to play in building God’s Kingdom and today’s worship is designed to reflect that. It’s going to be a service of music and readings. We’ll sing hymns written by many different Christians and hear the stories of how they came into being. We’re going to start by singing together our opening prayer. We’ll use a video by a Christian ecumenical group called the Porter’s Gate. It’s called ‘Teach Us Your Ways’. The words will appear with the video for us to sing along to.

Teach Us Your Ways

(Before using videos in public worship please check you have the relevant licenses e.g CCLI License & permission to use this YouTube video)

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12: 5 – 16

⁵ ... We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly;^[b] do not claim to be wiser than you are.

HYMN STORY 1

Our first hymn is called 'All are Called'. It was written in 1996 by a Canadian minister in Community of Christ called Danny Belrose. He said ...

The key to the principle 'All Are Called' is diversity! We share our humanity but we have unique histories, different, rich traditions, and various political systems. Unity does not mean conformity. It is not an exercise in having others see our way. Instead, it's an adventure in finding God's way together. It has to do with being for others as well as with others. It's an acknowledgment that if I am for me, I must also be for you!

All are called according to the gifts of God unto them... labour together with God for the accomplishment of the work entrusted to all. (Doctrine and Covenants 119: 8b)

CCS 606 – All Are Called

HYMN STORY 2

Our next hymn was written by Methodist minister Dan Damon in 1998 for his own ordination to a small congregation in California. It's based on a scripture in Isaiah, chapter 43:

"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

The words carry a powerful message for the whole church. In our best moments we serve together as the body of Christ. All are called. All are different. But each of us is asked to minister from our unique giftedness, in the places where we live.

God does not call a seed to become a lake, or a river to become a tree. All of us, just as we are, have worth. Each of us is called to expand our capacity to love others, to grow into the image of Christ, and to share generously as we pursue God's coming reign of peace and justice.

CCS 636 – I Have Called You by Your Name

HYMN STORY 3

In 2002 the Worship Team at Community of Christ headquarters received a CD in the post. It came with a letter from someone called Jay Goos. He explained that he was sending the church a new hymn and then explained why.

Jay wrote...

"You don't know me, and I am not a member of your denomination. However, in the past six months, during a time of crisis with my daughter's health, the Community of Christ online congregation has come to mean a lot to me.

Even though I am not a member of the church, I took in a part of your World Conference via Web cast. Then about a month ago, when I was visiting my sister in Kansas City, I visited your Temple and spent some praying there.

I think that I have caught a glimpse of what your church stands for, and I thought that it was worth honouring it in a song. I felt a calling on my heart to give something back to Community of Christ, and, in writing and donating a song to your church, I feel I have fulfilled my charge,

Sincerely. R. Jay Goos, Fargo, North Dakota

This song really took off among Community of Christ members and was translated into many languages around the world. It reached the UK where the Young Adults in particular have recently embraced it. Church theologian, Tony Chvala-Smith, says the song "aptly and insightfully sums up who we are and who we are becoming. Sometimes it seems that an outside voice can help us more than anything else to hear and sense what's really going on among us. This hymn offers such a voice."

CCS 350 – We are a Family of Faith

HYMN STORY 4

One morning in October 2000, author Randall Pratt was thinking about a project he and other ministers had taken on to explore what "justice" really means and how we in Community of Christ can embrace a deeper form of discipleship. He felt the tune and words of "Take the path of the disciple" urgently speaking to him. He couldn't rest until he had completed the text and melody and sent it to Jan Kraybill, the organist in the church's Worship Ministries team. Jan composed an accompaniment, and the hymn made its way into a new hymn book in 2002. 25 years later its words continue to inspire our denomination.

CCS 558 – Take the Path of the Disciple

REFLECTION

- Which hymn did you like best and why?

- What does 'All are Called' mean to you?
- The scripture from Romans listed many different gifts from God. What gifts have we received as a group?
- What gifts do you think are needed in the world today?

FINAL THOUGHT

One of the great spiritual guides of recent times, Henri Nouwen, wrote "The church exists to glorify God, to embrace the whole wounded creation, and to bring forth God's just and peaceable reign." This is the point of ministry... amid all of the ethical and spiritual uncertainties, ecological crises, and violent realities of our time, Community of Christ believes there is divine power in our personal and corporate 'Yes!' to the call to minister in the name and way of Jesus.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Light a Peace Candle.

PRAYER

Loving God,

Thank you for the privileges and bounty of our lives. Too often we forget to be thankful; we become used to the blessings, and desensitized to the hurt and need in our world.

Spark in us a fire. Keep us awake with ideas and actions to bring about a more just world. Help us make our lives an offering to the cause you call us to: to actively being your hands and feet; to making the world a better place for all.

We pray in Jesus's name.

Amen.

OFFERING & Prayer

If time

CCS 605 - "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

CCS 651 – Send Me Forth

CLOSING PRAYER

God,

As we navigate the complexities of our world help us recognize the gifts we have been given as individuals and as a group together. Help us nurture them responsibly and then be prepared to share them generously with those we know and those we are yet to meet. In this way may we prepare for the future and create a better tomorrow for our families, friends, the mission of Christ, and the world.

Amen.