

Jesus' Special Friends

Story for Children's Service at St Nicolas

[Matthew 4, 18-22, Mark 1,
16-20, Luke 5, 1-11, John 2,
35-49]

4 February 2024

St Nicolas Church,
Forest Hill with Shotover



Jesus' Special Friends

NARRATOR, ANDREW, JESUS, PHILIP, NATHANIEL, SIMON PETER, JAMES and JOHN (*last 2 non-speaking*)

(NARRATOR in the Pulpit, ANDREW by the Font, JESUS by the Lady Altar, PHILIP and NATHANIEL in the Chancel, SIMON PETER, JAMES and JOHN sit in the North Aisle. As each disciple joins Jesus, they stay with him so that by the end there is a group of 7 people).

Our story begins when Jesus was grown up. He had already begun healing people, and everybody was beginning to talk about the new young preacher who had done such amazing things. Jesus had also been baptized in the river Jordan by John. One of John's followers was called **ANDREW**.

ANDREW: (*walks in from the font and speaks from halfway down the aisle*) I have just seen Jesus being baptized by my friend, John, in the River Jordan! As Jesus came up out of the water, a dove flew down from heaven and landed on his shoulder and I could tell that he was someone really special. (*JESUS walks in from the Lady Altar and stops in front of the Chancel steps*) Oh! Look! There he is now!

ANDREW hurried over to see if he could meet JESUS.

ANDREW: Master where are you staying?

JESUS: Come and see.

And so they went off together. (*ANDREW and JESUS walk towards the Lady Altar and up the north aisle towards the Font*)

Later Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He went (*with Andrew*) to find **PHILIP** and called out:

(PHILIP comes to the Chancel step. JESUS walks in from the font and speaks from halfway down the aisle)

JESUS: Philip, my friend, greetings. I am going to Galilee. Follow me.

Philip gasped in surprise. Then he nodded and said:

PHILIP: Can I go and call my friend Nathaniel? I am sure he will want to meet you too.

Philip hurried (*into the Chancel*) to find **NATHANIEL**.

PHILIP: Nathaniel, come with me. I have found the man that our ancestor Moses wrote about and the one the Prophets foretold. He comes from Nazareth.

NATHANIEL: Nazareth? Can anything good come out of Nazareth?

PHILIP: Come and see.

So the two of them walked back to meet Jesus. Soon they were deep in conversation until finally Nathaniel said:

NATHANIEL: Jesus, Master, you are indeed the Son of God.

(All walk off towards the Lady Altar)

And so it was that **ANDREW** and **PHILIP** and his friend **NATHANIEL** came to follow Jesus. A few days later another amazing thing happened. Andrew had gone with his brother **SIMON PETER** to help their father mend his fishermen's nets (*SIMON PETER and ANDREW act this out by the Chancel step*). A huge crowd of people had followed Jesus down to the edge of the lake. Seeing two boats pulled up at the shore, Jesus said:

JESUS: Excuse me. Can you take me out in your boat for a while?

PETER: Of course! It's doing us no good. We were out all night and didn't catch a thing!

Jesus climbed into the boat and Peter rowed it a little way from shore. When he had finished speaking, Jesus sent the people home. Then he said to Peter:

JESUS: Let's go out to the deep water. I'd like to catch some fish.

PETER: Master, I've told you that we've been out fishing all night and didn't catch anything! But if you say so, we will do it.

So Peter sailed to the deepest part of the lake (*by the Font*). Then he and Andrew dropped their fishing nets over the side. It took no time at all! The nets started pulling and jerking and stretching. It was all they could do to keep the boat from tipping over. In panic they called out to their friends, **JAMES** and **JOHN**, who were fishing nearby.

ANDREW: James! John! Help! Please help us.

PETER: We've got too many fish in our nets!

ANDREW: The fish are going to make us sink!

James and John rowed over to them as fast as they could. Then, all together, they pulled on the nets, and the fish came tumbling into the boats. So many fish, that the boats would have sunk, had the fishermen not rowed quickly back to shore (*Chancel step*)! When they had finished unloading, Peter looked at Jesus and fell to his knees, trembling.

PETER: Only God, or somebody full of his power, could do that. You should leave me Lord: I am not good enough for you.

JESUS: Don't be afraid, Peter. God has given me a lot of work to do, and I need helpers like you and Andrew, and your friends, James and John. Once you were fishermen, but from now on, you will be fishing for people. Come with me!

And so it was that Andrew and Simon Peter left their boats and joined Jesus, but not before they had called James and John out of the second boat to come and join them as well. So now Jesus had 6 disciples: **Andrew** and **Simon Peter**, **Philip** and **Nathaniel**, and **James** and **John**.