

Prayer Letter February 2024.

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. (John 1: 43-46)

Here in Australia, we are currently enjoying summer, with many people being on holidays. As we look forwards to this year, we hear Jesus calling us anew to 'Follow me.' We might be in a comfortable or a challenging situation, but the call by Jesus is the same – to 'follow me.'

We pray:

God of good gifts,

Guide us as we live and learn your ways. Give us courage to explore new things.

Teach us how to know and use our gifts and talents.

Inspire us with the encouragement to use our gifts in the loving service of others and the common good.

We confess that we have treated the land, the seas, and waterways with contempt. We have not cared for them as we ought to have done. Teach us to treasure the country and waterways on which we depend, its cycles and seasons, its plants, and animals.

May there be an end to the current conflicts and wars in the world. We pray that the conflicts will not escalate and expand to other areas. May leaders and decision makers be inspired by wisdom, compassion, and a desire for peace. Comfort those who have family and friends who have been killed or injured and may food and resources be able to reach those who need them.

As we follow in the way of Jesus we discover:

When we are empty, God fills us;

when we are disheartened, God is compassionate;

when we are wounded, God brings healing.

As we follow in the steps of Jesus this year, may we find hope, strength, and companionship with other followers of Jesus' Way (including deacons and deaconesses.) May our lives become our worship. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Rev Deacon Christa Megaw
DIAKONIA Asia Pacific