

Jan. 21, 2026

## Matthew 4:12-23 Commentary

Chelsey Harmon

This is a different version, or perhaps we could say a similar story, to the discipleship calling narrative we had in the Gospel of John. Some of the same players are here though, even if in lesser roles: John the Baptist looms in the background and Andrew and his brother Simon Peter are here again—*seen* by Jesus. We even get an emphasis on prophecy being fulfilled and themes of light and darkness (albeit this last one is a theme from earlier in the month of January).

Let's just focus on the two discipleship calling narratives for a moment. They each portray two distinct timelines for becoming a disciple. Last week, Jesus invited the would-be followers to come and spend time with him—an opportunity to test the waters or deliberate and weigh one's thoughts and commitment before diving into the call. Here in Matthew, however, the focus is on how quickly—immediately—these fishermen decided they were done with the underwater kind of catching. In fact, it plays on the theme set up with the light and darkness: like the body's response to having been in darkness and encountering a light, these men *react* immediately to Jesus's invitation. As it goes for the first pair of brothers, so it goes for the other. In other words, the reaction is not a fluke. Simon Peter and Andrew are not weird or alone in their response—James and John also immediately leave it all to follow Jesus.

Some of us know what it's like to have the journey to understanding as the longer variety, happening over many visits of taking Jesus up on his invitation to "come and see." And some of us will know (or even have been) people like the pair of brothers, whose decision to follow Jesus has the feel of wholehearted, almost reckless abandon. It feels a little like they didn't know that this invitation was the thing they had been waiting for their whole life until they found it and now, they won't give it up for all the world.

Clearly, Jesus has sparked something in these fishermen. It's as though they innately knew that the life Jesus was offering to them as his disciple would be immensely better than the one they already had. And I can't help but feel that that's the thing that's standing in the way for so many of us. Perhaps because we have no imagination for what life as Jesus's disciple means, or because we love too much the things we already have in our life, many of us are not keen to have it all be turned upside-down by Jesus's call.

And it's here that the other contrast comes to mind. This contrast is the one *in* this text. Whereas the fishermen who become Jesus's disciples appear and are called as pairs, Jesus is all alone as the narrative opens. Not only is Jesus alone, but he is also setting out in the shadow of John the Baptist's arrest—aware of

the dangers of this work he has given himself to. Alone, but committed. Jesus goes forth to proclaim the kingdom, call for repentance, and bring the good news through healing and wholeness.

He is quite capable of doing this on his own but yet, he chooses to include us and make us his disciples. He invites us to let it all be transformed and to join him in a new way of doing whatever it is we do.

I especially appreciate that the lectionary includes verse 23 in this calling narrative because it provides us with such a lovely, promising, and wholesome image of what disciples give their lives to in following Jesus. Could Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John have had healing people, curing diseases, teaching about the kingdom in view when they dropped their nets to follow Jesus?

If not, they will have plenty of opportunity to see and be. That is the beauty of life with God; the way of being a disciple is unending, full of seeing and being part of blessings even as we heed Jesus's other proclamation about the Kingdom by repenting of what does not belong. In this Epiphany season may we find afresh new ways of being "fishers of people" through how we live, work and play.

### **Textual Point**

Verse 15 lays the important groundwork that Jesus has come for all, Jew *and* Gentile. The details of where Jesus sets out on his own highlight both the heritage of the tribes of Israel in the North and the mixed ethnic community in which he is going to minister and spend time.



### **Worship Calendar**

Jan. 25	Called to Follow, Sent to Advocate	Matthew 4:12-23	Rev. Eric Lee
Feb. 1	Blessed is the Upside-Down Kingdom	Micah 6:1-8 & Matthew 5:1-12	Rev. Eric Lee
Feb. 8	TBA	TBA	Pastor Won Hwang
Feb. 15	TBA	TBA	Pastor Tim Connor
Feb. 22	TBA	TBA	Rev. Jan Hieminga
Mar. 1	Seeing Without Hating	Ecclesiastes 7:16-22 Titus 3:1-7	Rev. Eric Lee



## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Matching Gift Campaign Results

The Graceview Matching Gift Fund Raising Campaign conducted in the month of December 2025 was a tremendous success. A total of \$12,490 was donated, which includes the \$5,000 matching gift, and that amount will all go toward reducing our 2025 annual deficit. Special thanks go to our Matching Gift Donor who had the idea for the campaign and donated the matching gift, and to all those in the congregation who so generously supported the campaign. Thank you all.



### Coffee Sign-Up

It is that time of year again when we are looking for volunteers to serve coffee and tea after worship. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Adamson Lounge.

Jan. 18 – Susan & Nancy

Jan. 25 – Mission Team

Feb. 1 – Koko & Chuka

Feb. 8 - ????

Feb. 15 - ????

Feb. 22 - ????

Mar. 15 – Carol & Iris

Thank you to all of you who have given so willingly of your time and efforts. We appreciate you!!



## PRAYER REQUESTS AND PASTORAL CARE

- \* Pray for the people of war-torn countries who are living in fear and uncertainty. Pray for those close to home who need your special love and guidance during trying times. Pray for our country, Canada.
- \* **Joan Kohar** who is experiencing difficulty walking. She recently had a fall and is making good use of the Graceview wheelchair. Thanks to Earl Nixon for delivering it to her.
- \* **Peter Kohar** who broke his wrist during his attempts to assist Joan after her fall.
- \* **Ethel Waite's** nephew, **Bob Woolley** who is experiencing breathing issues related to heart problems.
- \* **Nancy Green** has asked us to pray for member of her family who is hoping and praying to be accepted into a medical study in the New Year.
- \* **Paul Mgobo** asks us to pray for his family back at home and for God to help him achieve and complete

the mission that the Lord created for him to achieve.

- \* **Paul Mgobo** also asks us to pray for the good health of his father-in-law who has been in and out of hospital.
- \* **Godfrey Miringu** asks us to pray for the healing of his mother-in-law who is in stage 4 cancer, and for his daughter who is sitting her final exams. He also seeks our prayers for protection and guidance as he starts his new job as a Go Bus driver.
- \* Pray for all of our young people as they start and try to start their own families. Give them hope and strength and joy in the coming year to truly trust in the Lord our saviour.

\* **Also, please keep these people in your prayers:**

Giulietta Ponzini, Ryan Jory, John Thomas, Harold Hussey, Teresia Njoki, Roman and Adrian P., Ed Latimer, Ethel Waite, Lynne Bishop, Debbie Homebrooke and family, Margaret Munene's brother Simon, Lenore Carty, Shelia Thomas' grandson, Carter, the Jarvis family, Olive S.

Please keep these folks, and indeed, everyone in our church family and people around the world, in your prayers.

**Note from your editor...could you please advise me from time to time on the status of your loved ones so that updates can be recorded and shared to prove that the power of prayer does work miracles.**



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- \* Tuesdays @ 11:00 AM – Walking Group – All are welcome
- \* Thursdays @ 2:00 PM – Worship service at Centennial Park Place
- \* Thursday, Jan. 22 @ 9:30 AM – Sing! Etobicoke @ GV
- \* Sunday, Jan. 25 @ 11:45 AM – Bell Ringers rehearsal
- \* Monday, Jan 26 @ 6:30 PM – Mission Team meeting (Zoom)
- \* Friday, Jan. 30 @ 2:00 PM – Music & Worship
- \* Monday, Feb. 2 @ 7:00PM – Outreach Team
- \* Sunday, Mar. 1 @ 10:30 AM – Sacrament of Holy Communion
- \* Saturday, Mar. 7 – Women's World Day of Prayer (details will follow)
- \* Sunday, Mar. 8 @ 11:30 AM – Annual General Meeting

## **Prayer/Reader/Announcements for 2026**

### **Prayer Roster**

Jan. 25	Pastor Eric
Feb. 1	Koko Ikele
Feb. 8	Kathy Twynam
Feb. 15	Margaret Munene
Feb. 22	Rachael Chen
Mar. 1	Pastor Eric

### **Lay Readers**

Susan Chopp
Chuka Ikele
Jean Fox
Maureen Screen
Margaret Munene
Georgena Engineer

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Nancy McPherson
Susan Chopp
Bob Twynam
Kathy Twynam
Nancy McPherson
Nancy McPherson



## **Sing! Etobicoke**

To register, please visit: <https://www.neilsonparkcreativecentre.com/event/sing-etobicoke/>

For information, please email: [alex@neilsonparkcreativecentre.com](mailto:alex@neilsonparkcreativecentre.com) or call 416-622-5294.

## **Sing! Etobicoke, Encore, 2026 Winter Schedule**

2026-01-22	9:30 AM	GV	A Day in the Life	W26ASE3
2026-01-29	9:30 AM	GV	Be My Light	W26ASE4
2026-02-05	9:30 AM	NPCC	Guest Day (with Men Aloud)	W26ASE5
2026-02-12	9:30 AM	GV	Love Me Tender	W26ASE6
2026-02-19	9:30 AM	GV	Singin' in the Rain	W26ASE7
2026-02-26	9:30 AM	GV	Catch a Falling Star	W26ASE8
2026-03-05	9:30 AM	NPCC	Do I ever Cross Your Mind?	W26ASE9
2026-03-12	9:30 AM	NPCC	Here Comes the Sun (Songs of Spring)	W26ASE10

## WEEKLY GIGGLE



Meanwhile in Canada

@MeanwhileinCanada

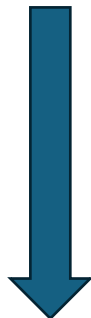
Canadian archaeological dig.



## Where to Find Us

Contact Person	Email Address	Phone Number	Role/Note
Susan Chopp	<a href="mailto:choppertini@hotmail.com">choppertini@hotmail.com</a>	419-953-7582	Weekly News
Pastor Eric	<a href="mailto:pastor@graceview.ca">pastor@graceview.ca</a>	416-621-0888 (press #1)	Church related issues
Church Office (Halyna)	<a href="mailto:office@graceview.ca">office@graceview.ca</a>		Church Secretary
Dr. Glen DeLine	<a href="mailto:delineglen@gmail.com">delineglen@gmail.com</a>	905-849-0388	Music Director
Graceview Website	<a href="https://graceview.ca/calendar-events">https://graceview.ca/calendar-events</a>		
Facebook Page	Graceview Presbyterian Church		
Instagram Page	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/graceview.presbyterian?igsh=MnlpeXE5YTYyN2ly">https://www.instagram.com/graceview.presbyterian?igsh=MnlpeXE5YTYyN2ly</a>		

## January Calendar



# JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Sing! Etobicoke 9:30 - NPCC Service @ CPP 2:00	9	10
11 Rev. Sean Howard	12	13 Walking Group 11:00 Craft Club 11:00	14	15 Sing! Etobicoke 9:30 - NPCC Service @ CPP	16	17
18 What Do You Want? Rev. Eric Lee	19	20 Walking Group 11:00  Session 6:30 PM	21	22 Sing! Etobicoke 9:30 - GV Service @ CPP 2:00	23	24
25 Called to Follow, Sent to Advocate Rev. Eric Lee	26 Mission Team 6:30 PM via Zoom	27 Walking Group 11:00	28	29 Sing! Etobicoke 9:30 - GV Service @ CPP 2:00	30 Music & Worship 2:00 PM	31