

# You Walk along Our Shoreline 170

1 You walk a - long our shore-line where land meets un-known sea.  
 2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo - ple of the earth.  
 3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we cry the king-dom's name;

We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me.  
 We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth.  
 we work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain.

And if you still will fol-low through storm and wave and shoal,  
 We spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,  
 You call us, Lord, to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,

then I will make you fish - ers but of the hu - man soul."  
 our boat a com - mon shel - ter for all found by your grace.  
 to let your judg - ment heal us so that all may be one.

Based on Jesus' calling of the disciples (Matthew 4:18–22/Mark 1:16–20/Luke 5:4–11), this hymn notes that their mode of fishing involved nets requiring the participation of more than one person. Likewise, in our work of love and justice we are called to bear witness in community.

## Texts & Reflections

### Sunday, January 19, 2018

#### Genesis 12:1-9 (NRSV)

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak<sup>[b]</sup> of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, “To your offspring<sup>[c]</sup> I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

#### Footnotes:

- Genesis 12:3 Or *by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves*
- Genesis 12:6 Or *terebinth*
- Genesis 12:7 Heb *seed*

#### Genesis 17:1-8 (NRSV)

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty;<sup>[a]</sup> walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram,<sup>[b]</sup> but your name shall be Abraham;<sup>[c]</sup> for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring<sup>[d]</sup> after you. <sup>8</sup>And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.”

#### Footnotes:

- Genesis 17:1 Traditional rendering of Heb *El Shaddai*
- Genesis 17:5 That is *exalted ancestor*
- Genesis 17:5 Here taken to mean *ancestor of a multitude*
- Genesis 17:7 Heb *seed*

#### Matthew 4:12-23 (NRSV)

<sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup>“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup>the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the  
region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>18</sup>As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus<sup>[c]</sup> went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news<sup>[d]</sup> of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

#### Footnotes:

- Matthew 4:12 Gk *he*
- Matthew 4:17 Or *is at hand*
- Matthew 4:23 Gk *He*
- Matthew 4:23 Gk *gospel*

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**Covenant is a central theme in today’s texts (and The Year With the Bible readings).** Here are some excerpts from *Belonging to God: A First Catechism* that speak of the covenant:

#### Q. 14 What did God do to help us?

*God chose the people of Israel to make a new beginning. They received God’s covenant, and prepared the way for Jesus to come as our Savior.*

#### Q. 15 What is the covenant?

*The covenant is an everlasting agreement between God and Israel.*

#### Q. 16 What is in this agreement?

*When God called Abraham and Sarah, God promised to bless all the peoples of the earth. God promised to be Israel’s God, and they promised to be God’s people. God vowed to love Israel and to be their hope forever, and Israel vowed to worship and serve only God.*