



September 16, 2018



To "follow" is a concept with various meanings.

When we follow someone on social media there are no strings attached. We can check their content or neglect what they post indefinitely. One can be virtually unconnected but still be a "follower."

We follow a sports team with differing levels of engagement. Some are fanatical fans. They attend, support and cheer rain or shine. Others may be fickle fans who only follow when it's convenient. They "support" the team saying, "I'm behind you all the way." (And, we know what that really means.)

Some of us have a mentor whom we follow. We resonate with and embrace their teachings and viewpoints and seek to emulate their best practices in our own lives and in doing our craft.

The question before us this week is, "What does it mean to follow Jesus."

Unfortunately, there are folk who treat following Jesus like a Facebook friend. They want to have contact and connection. They want access to the lives of their friend, but they want it on their terms and at their convenience. Often there is no reciprocity in the relationship.

Some days, it would be an improvement in our level of commitment to Christ if we followed like a devoted fan. Imagine if we prioritized Jesus like we rank our favorite team? Even still, Jesus has a lot more in mind when he invites us to follow him!

Here are a few questions to ponder as we prepare for worship:

- What does it mean for you to follow Jesus?
- In what ways have you heard Jesus inviting you to follow him?
- What does following Jesus look like in your life?
- What challenges and benefits have you found in following Jesus?

This week, we will explore the ways Jesus continually invites us to follow him. We will break it down into the several degrees and stages of following Jesus as demonstrated in scripture and verified by our own spiritual journeys.

Jesus invites us to come and follow!

*Brad*

# **Service of Worship and Praise to God**

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 16, 2018

Liturgical Color: White  
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

The Gathering and Announcements Dr. Brad Brady  
Please register your attendance on the pads found in each pew.

Prelude *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* arr. John Carter  
piano

The Invocation Dr. Brady

\*The Hymn of Praise 154 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

\*Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles Creed* Krissy Walker  
Leader:

***I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;***

***And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

\*The Gloria Patri 70 *Glory Be to the Father*  
***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

The Sacrament of Infant Baptism (11 a.m.) Page 44, Response 2  
**Lily Elizabeth McLeod**  
Daughter of Benji and Becca McLeod

The Prayer Hymn 398 *Jesus Calls Us*

The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Rev. Tommy Perkins

\*The Hymn of Preparation      *The Summons*      John L. Bell and Graham Maule  
(At 11:00 a.m. children 4 years old - 1st grade will depart for Children's Church)

1. *Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?*

*Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?*

*Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

2. *Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?*

*Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?*

*Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?*

*Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

3. *Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?*

*Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?*

*Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?*

4. *Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?*

*Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?*

*Will you use the faith you've found, to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?*

5. *Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.*

*Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.*

*In Your company I'll go, where Your love and footsteps show.*

*Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

The Dedication of Our Tithes and Offerings

Rev. Perkins

The Offertory Anthem      *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*      arr. Hal Hopson  
The Sanctuary Choir

The Doxology      94      LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Praise God, the source of all our gifts!***

***Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!***

***Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

The Scripture Lesson      Mark 4:19-22

The Sermon      Follow Me!      Dr. Brady

\*The Hymn of Commitment      402      *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

\*Sending Forth with Blessing      Dr. Brady

\*The Postlude      *Adante*      C.A. Wendt  
organ

\*Stand as able

**ALCOLYTES**

Mary Charles Ellerbee  
(9:00)  
Isabelle Dehem  
(11:00)

**CRUCIFER**

Chloe Hill  
(11:00)

**The Altar Flowers are given** in loving memory of Harvey Coleman's birthday by Kelly, Steve, Jordan, and Sam Rodgers, Ken Coleman and Betty Coleman.



**The Rose Bud is given** to celebrate the birth of Molly Ann Medlin on August 13, 2018 to proud parents Tyler and Laura Medlin and big brother Bryson.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**Monday, September 17

12 p.m. - Moms Bible Study meet in the Back Porch  
1 p.m. - Handbell Quartet Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m. - UMM in the Fellowship Hall  
7 p.m. - CenterStage Rehearsal  
7 p.m. - Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 18

11 a.m. - JOY Choir Rehearsal  
7 p.m. - CenterStage Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 19

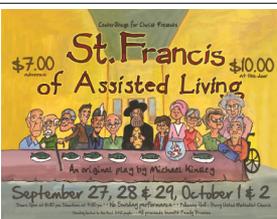
7 a.m. - Youth Prayer Breakfast in the Youth Center  
4 p.m. - Tree House Trades  
6:30 p.m. - Youth Bible Study in the Youth Center  
6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 20

5 p.m. - Summer Bible Study in the Pathfinders Sunday School Classroom  
7 p.m. - CenterStage Rehearsal

Friday, September 21-23

Women's Retreat, prior registration required.

**CENTER STAGE FOR CHRIST****"St. Francis of Assisted Living"**

September 27-29 and October 1-2  
(There will not be a Sunday matinee!)  
Show Time is 7:30 p.m.  
(Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)  
Seating is limited to the first 242 people per night.  
Cupcake Café after each performance.

Tickets are \$7 in advance and are available NOW at the church office and at Dr. Kinsley's office.

Tickets will be sold between services on Sunday. Proceeds will benefit Family Promise of Houston County.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

September 17 in the Fellowship Hall  
Gathering at 6 p.m.  
Supper at 6:30 p.m.

Menu will be Grilled Dove and Sides

Guest Speaker will be  
Rev. David Grantham.

No Reservations are required.

**Our Nursery** is available during worship services to all little ones under the age of 4. Please see an usher for directions to the nursery.

Dr. Brad Brady, Senior Pastor

Rev. Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

Krissy Walker, Children's Pastor

Kyle Barfield, Youth Pastor

Christie Rooks, Christian Education Assistant

Katie Cawthon, Mission Coordinator

Dr. Jane Kimbrel, Director of Music Ministries/Organist

Sheryl McDaniel, Pianist

Dicky Gilbert, Audio Visual

P. O. Box 73 1002 Carroll Street Perry, GA 31069

www.perryumc.org 478-987-1852