

We've heard some Spirit-inspired preaching in the faith statements by our Confirmands already today, so, my preaching will be brief, but I want to highlight a couple of things.

First, the disciples are fishing.

Fishing was often a topic of our three Confirmands during the highs and lows time that we start each Confirmation class with. Fishing, hunting, go-karting could be either highs or lows of the week, depending if luck, timing and equipment and parts held out.

Like the original disciples Logan, Carson and Andrew know what it is to work with their hands, to wait patiently in stillness, and appreciate all that God has created.

Long ago, and just beginning to understand and live into the now and not yet time of the resurrection, Peter, perhaps looking for inspiration, or comfort in what he's known, or a cure for his idleness, says to the rest, "I'm going fishing". "We'll go too," is their response.

Awesome accompaniment of one another and I hope this continues for you Confirmands, too.

And so, they fish, but they have no better luck filling their nets than they did filling their day. Until the morning dawns and a man from the beach calls out to them – "hey there lads, you haven't caught anything have you?" "No," they shout! "Try the right side of the boat", this man says. The next thing they know their nets are filled to overflowing and the favored disciple realizes Jesus has come to them again.

Logan, Andrew and Carson, I hope you will always be on the lookout for Jesus calling out to you as he did to his disciples in the boat.

Come, let's eat", Jesus says.

And then Jesus feeds his lambs, tends his sheep, feeds his sheep.

They eat, not chicken wings, but bread and fish,
and, then, it's question and answer time.
Do you love me? Do you love me? Do you love me?
Logan, Carson and Andrew lead us today in saying
Yes, Lord, we love you.
Jesus' answer is the same today as then:
Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep.

Some say the 'do you love me' questions
absolve Peter of his great betrayal –
the three-folded-ness of his denial.
These three questions
restore him to leadership by Jesus.

And, so Peter, the disciples and today Logan, Carson, Andrew,
all of us receive our mission.

A mission rooted in love.

Tell my Good News.
Bring my people from darkness into light – to eternal life.
Live with all creatures.
Care for the earth, the seas and the skies so it is a beautiful home.
Nourish the soil to bear fruit and flower.
Delight in the morning songs of the birds,
the evening sounds and all the songs of creation.

Follow me. Tend my sheep.

Peter would go on to follow Jesus –
even to death by crucifixion.
He cared for believers;
he fed them physically and spiritually.
Through Peter, the other disciples, early believers and
leaders of the church,

people down through the ages have learned to live resurrected lives every day.

In the resurrection we are invited into the new world God is bringing into being.

A new world that begins with each of us.

A new world where the interconnection between human beings, creatures and our natural environment is respected and cherished.

A world where not one part of nature is broken or cast aside. A world where not one person or creature is absent or left behind. Thanks be to God for Logan, Carson and Andrew who lead us on the Way today.

Amen.

