

Bulletin Sermon Summary
January 25, 2026
“Catch and Release”
(Matthew 4:12–23)

When Jesus called the first disciples beside the Sea of Galilee, he invited them into something far larger than a career change. He said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” It was an invitation to transformation, to learn the patient, artful work of presenting the gospel in the living currents of the world.

The focus of this message on our fallen condition is our tendency to stay on shore. We often want the safety of dry ground—faith without risk, compassion without contact, church without challenge. Like uncast lines, our potential stays coiled and unused. We admire Jesus’ mission, but hesitate to wade into the cold, uncertain waters of real human need.

Jesus’ call to Simon, Andrew, James, and John reminds us that discipleship is always active. It is about stepping into the flow of other people’s lives, learning to see their hunger, their beauty, and their pain. The good news is that God does not demand perfection before sending us out. God simply says, “Follow me,” and then teaches us the art of love in motion.

The resolution in Christ is that God is a catch-and-release kind of God. Through Jesus, God catches us not to confine us, but to free us, to release us into lives of abundance, compassion, and purpose. We are gathered in grace so that we may go and do the same for others.

To fish for people is to live with spiritual attentiveness. It means tying the right flies, offering faith that answers the deep questions of our age. It means casting into real life, bringing healing, hope, and good news wherever life feels cold or empty.

Jesus still calls across the shoreline of our comfort: “Follow me.” The question before us this year is simple yet profound: Will we stay on shore, or will we wade into the world’s waters to join God’s transforming work of catch and release?