Sunday 1st March

Ballarat

Central UC

HOLY COMMUNION

Stewardship: Planned Giving Program!

"Called to change direction!"

Proclamation of the Word

"Called to a different direction!"

Physical, mental, spiritual, emotional direction/s!

Have you been called/told to change direction/s? Why?

Called to change direction!

Change direction, not destination!

Flexible direction vs Fixed Destination!

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Call of Abram

12 “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 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. 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him …

The Call of Abram – Change Direction!

A call to trust God!

Destination to be revealed later!

Abraham found the destination and the directions in trusting God!

John 3:1-17

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

3 Now there was a Pharisee named
Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He
came to Jesus by night and said to him,
"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher
who has come from God, for no one can
do these signs that you do unless God is
with that person."

3 … no one can see the kingdom of God
without being born from above.”
4 “How can anyone be born after having
grown old? Can one enter a second time
into the mother’s womb and be born?”
5 “…no one can enter the kingdom of God
without being born of water and Spirit.

Change direction – Born Again!

Jesus invites Nicodemus to change direction to spiritual things!

Nicodemus focuses on earthly/worldly things/directions!

The call of Nicodemus!

John 19 - [39] Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. [40] They (Nicodemus & Joseph of Arimathea) took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths …

Psalm 121

Response:

To the hills I lift up my eyes;

I lift up my eyes to the Lord.

To the hills, I see the Lord.

Psalm 121 calls people to look to different/right direction!

Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let you foot slip –
He who watches over you will not slumber;
Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

BCUC Call – Change Direction/s?

We are on a journey to a Promised End --- Fixed Destination?

LENT: Called to change direction/s!

WHICH DIRECTION? Towards God!

Will we change direction to God?

God is our destination! Trust God!