Preparing
the Way



A liturgy to mark the beginning of our Journey

*Forward Together in Hope*

**Opening Responses**

Reader We gather in the name of the Father:

**All Who created us his sons and his daughters,**

 **and placed us on the earth**

 **to live the journey of a lifetime**

 **and gave us companions to share the way.**

Reader We gather in the name of the Son:

**All Who calls disciples and friends to follow him –**

 **along old paths and new ways –**

 **to new encounters and to relived memories –**

 **walking with us on the way to the Kingdom.**

Reader We gather in the name of the Holy Spirit:

All **Who inspires and cajoles,**

 **who reassures and challenges**

 **all whom the Lord calls –**

 **encouraging them along the path that leads into a future**

 **they may not yet be able to imagine –**

 **or believe in.**

All **We gather in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Scripture Reading** – Mark 1: 16-20)
Jesus calls the first disciples

**Sung Response**

**Reflection**

**Scripture Reading** – Matthew 28: 16-20

“Behold I am with you until the end of time…”

**Going Forward Together in Hope**

**Closing Prayer**

Reader Lord Jesus, you honour all that is part of our past

and our heritage

 but from the beginning, have called men and women to travel

 to journey –

 to follow you into places filled with fun and laughter

 and to darker and more frightening places.

 But always, you were with them –

 leading them forward –

 leading them together

 leading them in hope.

**All Bless us as we embark upon this journey –**

 **our leaders and our companions**

 **as we take our place in this great procession through history**

 **joining those in our past and our future**

 **travelling forward together – with you – in hope:**

 **In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

**Closing Song** The Summons… (*or other option*



© Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle ­ March 2015

Also available in other formats