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**

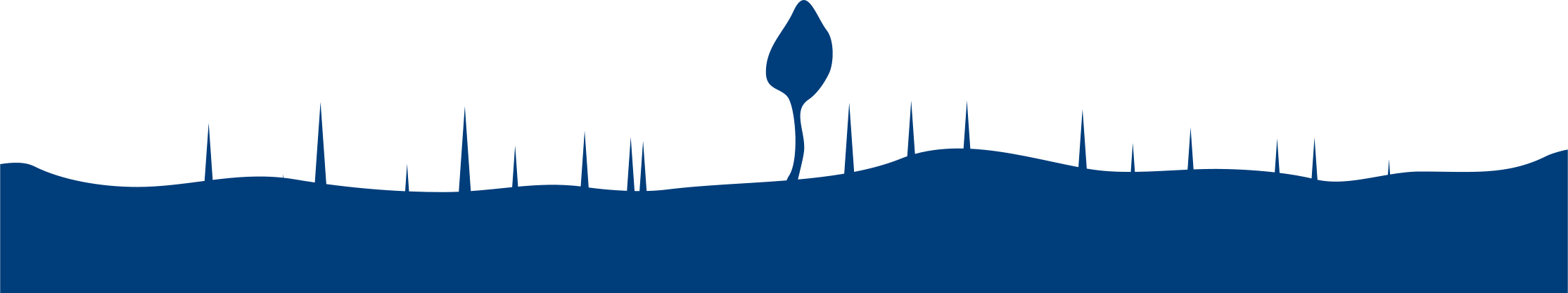
**as we take our place in this great procession through history**

**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*



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