

call us forth

Good Shepherd,

You who rests not until each of your
sheep is counted,
You have willed us to do in your name
what you have done for us.

But we are reluctant,
we are afraid,
and we long to hear your voice.
And so we pray... *Call us forth.*

Lord, who stands amid the violence
and deprivation of war...
❖ *Call us forth.*

Lord, who stands amid the rising waters
of floods...
❖ *Call us forth.*

Lord, who walks upon the parched land
of droughts...
Call us forth.

Lord, who stands with the victim of
every type of disaster,
remaining through every dark night,
beside them till morning...
❖ *Call us forth.*

Lord, who walks the long walk with
the refugee,
Calling the crude shelter in a strange
land "home"...
❖ *Call us forth.*

Lord, who remains with the sick,
reaches out to the crippled,
comforts the dying...
❖ *Call us forth.*

Lord, who calls himself brother
to the persecuted, the enslaved,
the scourged and the marginalized...
❖ *Call us forth.*

As you called Peter forth from the
safety of the boat,
and bid him to forsake his fear
and hold fast to his faith;

As you called Paul forth from the
allure of worldly power,
and bid him to forsake his sin
and hold fast to your truth,

Call us forth to bless.

Call us forth to heal.

Call us forth to speak your Word,
To feed your sheep,

Into encounter,

Into solidarity,

Into love.

Call us forth from our comfort,
from our indulgence,
from our doubt,
from our fearful blindness,
our willful deafness.

For the sake of our sisters and brothers,
for the sake of our world,
for the sake of Your Kingdom,
we pray...

❖ *Call us forth.*

Amen