

A Service of Worship
February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent

We Gather at God's Call

Introit

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude

Who will you listen to?...the wind as she blows / the echo of children playing / the ice bucket challenge / the phone when it rings / your pastor / your mother / your doctor / your gut / the tension in your shoulders / TED talks / your therapist / the wisdom of the enneagram / the way your heart comes alive when you're being creative / the man on the corner asking for change / the magazines that tell you you need timeless beauty / financial advisors / the top 40 pop / your sense of self / Jesus, when he says, "I am with you, always."

*Call to Worship

Worship Leader, Jon Alger

Listen!

There is hope to be found here.

Listen!

God calls you by name here.

Listen!

There is love that abides here.

This world is full of chatter, so may we do our best to listen.

God is speaking.

Let us worship.

Amen.

*Hymn

Listen, God is Calling

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*Leader: Listen,
All: listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.*

Leader: Jesus gave his mandate:

All: share the good news

Leader: that he came to save us

All: and set us free.

Leader: Let none be forgotten

All: throughout the world.

Leader: In the triune name of God

All: go and baptize.

Leader: Help us to be faithful,

All: standing steadfast,

Leader: walking in your precepts,

All: led by your Word.

Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

too often we treat your Word like a radio station—

something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient.

Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications.

In the midst of this clutter,

we gravitate toward the voices that think like us—

easily ignoring the voices being silenced,

easily ignoring your voice.

Forgive us for failing to listen.

Forgive us for getting caught in distractions.

Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like.

Drain the distractions from our minds

and help us turn once again toward you.

With earnest hearts we pray, amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness (responsively)

Friends, even when we tune God out, even when we prioritize other voices,
even when we do all the talking and fail to listen, we are *still held by God*.

Our sins are forgiven. Nothing could ever separate us from God's love.

So with joy in our hearts, please repeat after me:

I am loved!

I am loved!

I am held in grace!

I am held in grace!

I belong to God.

**I belong to God.
Amen.**

*Response

Jesus Loves Me

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*Jesus loves me! This I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me."
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

Time with the Children

Jean Kilby

Scripture

Matthew 4:1-11
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Sermon

Seeking: Who Will We Listen To?
Pastors Ann Pettit and Keith Phillips

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith (*responsive*)

In a world full of noise,
we believe that God is speaking.

In a world full of chaos,
we believe that God is singing.

In a world full of temptation,
we believe that God is healing.

Church, who will you listen to?

We will listen to God—our Creator, Friend, and Guide.

Church, what will you listen for?

**We will listen for water in the desert, for the wind of the Spirit,
for the laughter of children,
for the sound of open doors,
and for God's voice, who calls us beloved.**

Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Special Music

Ancient Words

-Courtney

*Ancient words, long preserved for our walk in this world,
They respond with God's own heart. O let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope give us strength, help us cope.
In this world where e're we roam, ancient words will guide us home.*

*Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you.
We have come with open hearts. O let the ancient words impart.*

*Holy words of our faith handed down to this age,
Came to us through sacrifice. O heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world.
They resound with God's own heart. O let the ancient words impart.*

Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

We Are Sent to the World

*Hymn

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

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*Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.*

*Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

*Savior, when your love shall call us,
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with you in endless day.*

Poem and liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed/ A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org