

Second Sunday in Epiphany
January 17, 2021

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The Light of the Star Shines Upon Us (Jones)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION and CONFESSION (Based on 1 Samuel, Psalm 79, Matthew 28)

Leader: Let us begin in a spirit of prayer. We will use a responsive prayer. When I say, "Still-Speaking God," you are invited to respond with the words, "you are calling." Again, when I say, "Still-Speaking God," you are encouraged to say, "you are calling." Let us pray:

Leader: Gentle and patient,
Still-Speaking God,

All people: *you are calling.*

Leader: Careful and persistent,
Still-Speaking God,

All people: *you are calling.*

Leader: In grieving and in praise,
Still-Speaking God,

All people: *you are calling.*

Leader: Through dawn and midday,
Still-Speaking God,

All people: *you are calling.*

Leader: Unexpected and planned,
Still-Speaking God,

All people: *you are calling.*

Leader: In a still, small voice and in power,
Still Speaking God,

All people: *you are calling.*

Leader: Spontaneous and prepared,
Still Speaking God,

All people: *you are calling.*

Leader: Lord, you are eager for us to respond affirmatively to your call. Wherever we are on our life's journey, you continue to reach out to us, beckoning us to follow and answer you. Even when we sin, you call to us, offering us your love, grace, forgiveness, and peace. In these next few moments, God, we will pause in our time of corporate prayer, to offer you our individual confessions. Still-Speaking God...

All people: *You are calling.*

Leader: God of hope, we long to hear these words addressed to us, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you." Forgive us for listening to, and believing, voices that call us worthless and unlovable. We pause now in silence, to name the hurtful voices and circumstances in our lives.

(Silent prayer)

Leader: God of mercy, your words speak louder than our pain. We hear you say, "I have called you by name. YOU are mine." Forgive our negative feelings about ourselves and others. We pause now in silence, to confess our negative feelings.

(Silent prayer)

Leader: God of love, these, your words, free us, "You are precious in my sight and I love you." Forgive us when we allow our fears and our worries to stifle your voice of love. We pause now in silence to tell you the truth about our fears and worries.

(Silent prayer)

Leader: God of transformation, help us to hear again, your words of love that reverberate in every corner of our being – every aspect of our lives – so we too may believe that we are your beloved, on whom your favor rest. Still, Speaking God...

All people: you are calling.

Leader: Sisters and brothers, hear again the Good News: God has redeemed us in and through Jesus, who came “to give his life as a ransom for many.” Believe the Gospel! We are forgiven! Our Still Speaking God calls us to life anew in Christ’s name! Let us respond with a resounding “Yes! Here I am, Lord!”

All people: Yes, here I am, Lord!

Leader: Here we are, Still Speaking God, at your service. You bless us abundantly! Use us and all that we have to give with our time, talent, and financial resources that even now, in these most challenging days, we might make positive change in the world. May our offerings help to move us through our fears to bold new purpose! You are not finished with us yet! You are still speaking and still calling us into your future. In the hope of Christ Jesus, we continue to pray, as he taught us, saying:

All people: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN

God Speak to Me

1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 3:1-20 (CEB)

Now the boy Samuel was serving the LORD under Eli. The LORD's word was rare at that time, and visions were not widely known. ² One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. ³ God's lamp hadn't gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the LORD's temple, where God's chest was.

⁴ The LORD called to Samuel. "I'm here," he said.

⁵ Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go lie down." So, he did.

⁶ Again the LORD called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call, my son," Eli replied. "Go and lie down."

(⁷ Now Samuel didn't yet know the LORD, and the LORD's word hadn't yet been revealed to him.)

⁸ A third time the LORD called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD. Your servant is listening.'" So, Samuel went and lay down where he had been.

¹⁰ Then the LORD came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening."

¹¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of all who hear it tingle! ¹² On that day, I will bring to pass against Eli everything I said about his household—every last bit of it!^[b] ¹³ I told him that I would punish his family forever because of the wrongdoing he knew about—how his sons were cursing God,^[c] but he wouldn't stop them. ¹⁴ Because of that I swore about Eli's household that his family's wrongdoing will never be reconciled by sacrifice or by offering."

¹⁵ Samuel lay there until morning, then opened the doors of the LORD's house. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel, saying: "Samuel, my son!"

"I'm here," Samuel said.

¹⁷ "What did he say to you?" Eli asked. "Don't hide anything from me. May God deal harshly with you and worse still if you hide from me a single word from everything he said to you." ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.

"He is the LORD," Eli said. "He will do as he pleases."

¹⁹ So Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not allowing any of his words to fail. ²⁰ All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was trustworthy as the LORD's prophet.

NEW TESTAMENT READING – John 1:43-51 (CEB)

⁴³ The next day Jesus wanted to go into Galilee, and he found Philip. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and the Prophets: Jesus, Joseph’s son, from Nazareth.”

⁴⁶ Nathanael responded, “Can anything from Nazareth be good?”

Philip said, “Come and see.”

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, “Here is a genuine Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, “How do you know me?”

Jesus answered, “Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.”

⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are God’s Son. You are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰ Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these! ⁵¹ I assure you that you will see heaven open and God’s angels going up to heaven and down to earth on the Human One.”

SERMON & PRAYER

Are You Listening

Ms. Cathy Rentzel

HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

End of Bulletin

BENEDICTION

Leader: And now, sisters and brothers,
let us go from this time of worship,
knowing that the God who made us, also sustains us.
The God who calls us, also goes with us.
The God who loved us before we were even born
loves us today and will love us into all our tomorrows.

All people: Amen.

POSTLUDE

The Lord Has Come (Brandt)

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,	I have heard my peo-ple cry.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,	I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,	I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in deep - est sin,	my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them,	they turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them,	my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,	I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone,	give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread, I will pro- vide	till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them?	Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them.	Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them.	Whom shall I send?

Harmony

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the

night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

hold your peo-ple in my heart.	heart.
	heart, in my heart.
	heart, in my heart.