

# LISTENING



below the  
noise

**SEASON OF LENT**

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**Call to Worship** – *Listening Below the Noise*

- L: What if God calls us . . .  
Not to a task, but to a conversation?  
What if God calls us . . .  
Not to a destination, but to a relationship?  
What if God calls us . . .  
Not to an achievement, but to a table?  
What if we answered: “Here I am,”  
And pulled up a chair,  
Ready for whatever happens next?

**Prelude**

*“God’s Peace”*

Sanctuary Singers

**Confession and Forgiveness**

- L: We gather in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
L: Allow yourself to settle for a moment.  
To embrace the silence.  
To discover the stillness that lives within your soul.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

I invite you to listen to the voice of God who speaks to you:  
“Return to me with your whole heart, for I am gracious and merciful, slow to anger  
and abounding in steadfast love to the thousandth generation, ready to forgive all  
your sins by washing them away with my tears of joy.”

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

- L: God, source of life and steadfast love,  
**C: We turn toward you and open our hearts.  
Forgive our pride and forgive our insecurities.  
Forgive our self-absorption and forgive our self-destruction.  
Forgive our doubts and forgive our confidence.  
Forgive our longing for attention and forgive our desire to hide.  
Forgive each step we take away from you.**  
L: Allow yourself to settle for a moment.  
To embrace the silence.  
To discover the stillness that lives within your soul.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

- L: I invite you to listen to the voice of God who speaks to you:  
 “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you and forgiven you all your sins. I have called you by name and you are mine.”
- C: **Amen.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### Greeting

- L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

### Prayer of Illumination

- L: Let us pray.

God of the lost, the least, and all who long for home, when we wander from your ways and waste the gifts you have given us, welcome us back, so that we may celebrate and rejoice in your presence forever; through Jesus Christ your beloved Son.

- C: **Amen.**

### The First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

### Gospel Acclamation

*“We Are Turning, Lord, to Hear You”*

Kristin Nylen

We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind—

slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

### The Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

### The Message



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
 com - pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
 in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

## Affirmation of Faith

L: Let us affirm our faith.

**C: We believe in Jesus Christ,  
 Son of the One God,  
 Maker and sustainer of earth, sea, and sky.  
 Born of Mary's womb,  
 Faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah,  
 Jesus healed the sick,  
 Served the poor,  
 And proclaimed the reign of God in the world.  
 Condemned by the religious  
 And crucified by the state,**

**He died,  
But transformed even death  
And rose to life everlasting.  
He blessed the disciples with his Holy Spirit  
And sent them forth,  
East and west, north and south.  
We commit ourselves to Jesus,  
To one another and to his mission in the world  
In the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People of God**

L: Let us pray. Lord, it was said of the Prodigal Son that he “came to himself.” Help us to wake up to ourselves, and to you. Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect, so that we might be more fully human. Help us not to chase after an imaginary life, and to find satisfaction in our real lives. And turn us away from our self-rejection so that we might see that your arms open in welcome.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: We pray for those leaders of the world who are tempted by the lure of power, without considering the cost to others. We pray for those at the root of conflict, division, and violence whose desire to have things their way prevents them listening to your voice of peace. We pray for the country and the people of Ukraine as they stand against the Russian invasion of their country.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: We pray for those whom we know, for whom illness, frailness or bereavement have left them isolated and cut off from the joy, support and encouragement of human encounter.

L: We especially pray for:

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Val Allred        | ▪ Andrew Milholland |
| ▪ Lemont Bell       | ▪ Dave Miller       |
| ▪ Marie Childress   | ▪ Leo Peeler        |
| ▪ Charliese Eichler | ▪ Chip Priser       |
| ▪ Donnell Horton    | ▪ Jesse Priser      |
| ▪ John Kivett       | ▪ Joyce Quigley     |
| ▪ Waylon Kuklantz   | ▪ Beverly Rector    |
| ▪ Ray Matthews      | ▪ Joyce Reed        |

- Brenda Reid
- Shannon Roberson
- L.D. Shockley
- Reponda Smith
- Kelly Taylor
- Jackie Torrence
- Renda Torrence
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Debbie Vick
- Herbert Watson
- Renate Wilson

L: And for the deepest hopes of our hearts, we pray now.

*Time for the community to pray.*

L: We pray for our guests at Room in the Inn this past Monday: Demarkas, Mamadi, Micchicco, Elliott, Antionnette, Zimmie, Cristian, Dennis, Terry, and Lakeya.

L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially:

- Martha Young, friend of Mona Ingolia – died March 19th.
- Don Ritchies, long -time friend of Mona Ingolia – died March 21st.
- Dr. Genora Lassiter, aunt of Brook Summerour – died March 20<sup>th</sup>.

L: By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

L: Thanksgiving at the birth of Aubrey Mae Pixler, born March 19, granddaughter of Chris and Janet Rasmussen

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Lord Jesus, we journey with you during this Lenten season with the certain hope that by your death and resurrection you will recreate our world, so that all people will live in peace and experience justice. We pray all of these things in your name.

**C: Amen**

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SHARING THE MEAL

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**Offertory**

*“Open Our Eyes”*

Morning Chimes

## Word of Institution

### The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

**C:** 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Post-Communion Blessing

**L:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

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## SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

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### Benediction

**L:** Look at your hands. See the touch and the tenderness.

**C:** **God's own for the world.**

**L:** Look at your feet. See the path and the direction.

**C:** **God's own for the world.**

**L:** Look at your heart. See the fire and the love.

**C:** **God's own for the world.**

**L:** Look at the cross. See God's Son and Savior.

**C:** **God's own for the world.**

**L:** This is God's world,

**C:** **And we will serve God in it.**

**L:** May God bless you. May God keep you with great care and lead your lives with great love.

**C:** **May Christ's warm welcome shine in our lives and his peace fill our hearts and our homes. Amen.**



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*



watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!”  
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.