



January 17, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Gathering and Welcome

Rev. Todd Smith

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Voluntary

Kirsten Fitzsimmons

Call to Worship

Lynda McRee

Leader: How precious is your steadfast love, O God?

People: All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Hymn # 150

Come, Christians Join to Sing

Prayer of Confession and Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the World who taught us to pray. . .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 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.

(Silent prayer of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it



was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, world without end. A-men, A-men.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Lesson

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
- 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
- 3 You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
- 5 You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
- 13 For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

17 How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

18 I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

3 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; 3 the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. 4 Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” 5 and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. 6 The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. 8 The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

11 Then the Lord said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. 12 On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. 14 Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

15 Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. 16 But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” 17 Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God

do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” 18 So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.”

19 As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. 20 And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Samuel, Chapter 3, centers on the Lord calling on Samuel, but Samuel thinks it is Eli calling him instead. Samuel was an apprentice minister of the Lord, and he worked under the tutelage of Eli. He did so at a time when the Lord rarely spoke to His people and imparting visions was equally rare. So we see this interesting sequence of God speaking to Samuel.

Notice that this was not an inner voice. It was audible, so much so that Samuel was convinced that Eli was calling him. Eli gave Samuel wise counsel. Eli told Samuel to:

- Make himself available for God to speak.
- Wait upon the Lord
- Respond to the word of God
- Humble himself before God and His word

When we call upon God to speak, we must listen for God. The preacher may speak; our parents may speak; our friends may speak; our teachers may speak; inspirational authors write books we enjoy; we may spend daily time in the scriptures; Christian radio or television personalities may speak; inspirational music or hymns might fill our ears.

That is all good and wonderful, but these words, voices and melodies mean nothing for eternity if we are not open to the Listening for the words of God or the movement of the Spirit when we engage our faith in these and many other ways.

If we refuse to follow the advice Eli gave to Samuel to “Be Still and Listen,” we will not recognize the voice of His love, His grace, and His mercy even if it is as plain as day. More importantly, however, we need to start looking at people not as how we see them but as how God intends them to be, that is as children of the most high: called, sanctified, and sealed by His love. In order to look at them that way, we need to listen to them with such an attitude.

Sermon Topic

As Christians, we are called to active listening as a vital component of the receiving and sharing of God’s love. When we Listen with ears guided by the Spirit and act out of hearts shaped by the Spirit, we touch others with the love of God.

Hymn

Have Thine o Way Lord

Prayers of the People

Offertory

This is My Father's World
Piano Solo

Kirsten Fitzsimmons

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.*

Hymn # 276

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Benediction

Rev. Todd Smith

Postlude

Kirsten Fitzsimmons

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

MADRID 6.6.6.6 D

Spanish folk melody
 Arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824
 Harm. David Evans, 1927

Christian Henry Bateman, 1843

1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, Be - fore His throne re - joice;
 He is our guide and friend; To us He'll con - de - scend;
 On heav-en's bliss - ful shore His good - ness we'll a - dore,

Praise is His gra-cious choice; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 His love shall nev - er end; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

1. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
 2. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
 3. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
 4. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Thou art the pot - ter, I am the clay.
 Search me and try me, Mas - ter, to - day!
 Wound - ed and wea - ry, help me, I pray!
 Hold o'er my be - ing ab - so - lute sway!

Mold me and make me af - ter thy will,
 Whit - er than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
 Pow - er, all pow - er, sure - ly is thine!
 Fill with thy Spi - rit 'til all shall see

while I am wait - ing, yield - ed and still.
 as in thy pres - ence hum - bly I bow.
 Touch me and heal me, Sav - ior di - vine.
 Christ on - ly, al - ways, liv - ing in me!

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10 with refrain

Thomas Obediah Chisholm, 1923

William Marion Runyan, 1923

1. *Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is Thy faith - ful-ness! Great is Thy faith - ful-ness!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed Thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed; Great is Thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me!