

**GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD**

VOLUNTARY

*Jesus Calls Us*  
*Melody Davis*

OPENING HYMN 403 *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

CALL TO CONFESSION

God knows when we break our word, hurt another, ignore those in need, the sins we try to hide. And still God stands ready to forgive us and make us whole as we confess and ask for forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace, you broke into Samuel's life and called his name, and he said, "Here I am, speak, for your servant is listening." We confess that often so many voices clamor for our attention that your word is hard to hear. Forgive us if you have called us to use our gifts to serve you, and we have not heard, or have been unwilling to respond. Take from us all that hinders our hearing your voice and fill us anew with the Holy Spirit that we may joyfully respond to Jesus' call on our lives. Amen**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

In front of us, behind us, to our right, to our left: look! God is there! In our past, beside us today, waiting in the future: look! God is there! In the shadows, in the light: look! God is there! From the top of the mountains, to the bottom of the seas; in the morning, in the evening, in every moment: Thanks be to God who is with us always!

RESPONSE 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May we join our hearts in prayer as we prepare to hear God's Word: God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Hear our prayer. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (Pew Bible, page 247)

1 Samuel 3:1-10

The Old Testament lesson for today comes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of 1 Samuel, verses 1-10. Listen now to the Word of the Lord, as Samuel and Eli are also doing.

3Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. 2At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; 3the 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. 4Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" 5and 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. 6The 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." 7Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. 8The 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. 9Therefore 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. 10Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

## GOSPEL READING (Pew Bible, page 92)

John 1:43-5

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

HYMN 743 *O God, You Are My God*

## SERMON

*The Most Powerful Word in the World*

Sherry Holloman

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the *Iona Community*

**We believe in God above us maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present, and his kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, you see into the deepest needs of our hearts and call us to follow you and to listen to your voice: Receive our prayers now as we call upon you. In community, you have given us the church, the body of Christ and within you have given us the gift of your Holy Spirit. Encourage, empower and challenge us to share with our friends the Good News of Jesus Christ and invite them to "come and see" so they can share in Christian fellowship with us. You search our hearts and know us, O God. Lay your hand upon our nation and upon all in authority, that they may be instruments of your compassion and peace. Fill us with your grace, kindness, compassion, generosity and hospitality as we seek to be neighbor to one another.

Look upon the needs of all who are suffering and in need of healing for mind, body, spirit. (a time for silent prayer)

Give us, God, childlike faith to listen to what you are speaking and to follow you in faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord, praying: **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.**

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS (you are invited to join the Zoom gathering at 12 noon. You should have already received the invitation and link.)

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

God knows us by name. God knows all that we can do. God appears in our works for justice and is revealed in our hope for change. Let us carry this spirit into our giving. Let us praise God with our gifts of tithes and offerings.

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*Come Follow Me Forever*  
*Sanctuary Choir*

Patrick Liebergen

RESPONSE *647 Give Thanks*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God open our ears and hearts to hear your call to follow Jesus. Receive and bless our lives and these gifts - may they be devoted to sharing the love of Christ with all whom we meet. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

## **GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD**

### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION

Friends, remember that you are a follower of Christ, and you go nowhere by accident. Where you go, God is sending you. Where you are, God has put you there. The very Christ, who fills you, has something He wants to do through you, wherever you are. Believe this. And go in God's love, God's grace, and God's power. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *726 Will You Come and Follow Me*