

JANUARY 17, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



God reaches out to us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael
Monday	1 Samuel 3:1-20	The call of Samuel
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Honor God in body and spirit
Wednesday	Psalms 40:1-11	Happy are those who trust in God
Thursday	Romans 8:26-30	God reaches out to us
Friday	2 Thessalonians 2:13-17	Be faithful
Saturday	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	The Lord knows us well
Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls the first disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

1 Samuel 3:10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Awesome God, for your desire to have a relationship with us through Christ our Lord, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For the food that we eat, for your love that we meet, for this meal that we share as a sign of your care. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God that searches you and knows you give you hope and peace through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 139:1)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Listen, God Is Calling



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Are you more of a listener or a talker? Explain.
- Is it easy for you to tell others about Jesus? Why or why not?
- As a disciple of Jesus, why is listening to God so important?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Samuel 3:1-20.

Human efforts are important for lots of things in this world, but in the Bible, it is God's efforts that make all the difference. It is not first that we as humans call on God to make God a saving presence in our lives. It is God that reaches out to us. We see this in the story of Jesus calling disciples (John 1:43-51). Jesus takes the initiative with Philip, Nathanael, and with us. We see that same pattern when God calls Samuel. God repeatedly reaches out to a boy who does not know God yet. This is also the theme of Psalm 139:1: "O LORD, you have searched me and known me." According to the psalmist, that is unbelievably awesome news. That news is worthy of our full attention, like the boy Samuel saying to the LORD, "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10). With a God who comes to us, knows us, and calls us to do God's work in the world, it is worth taking the voice of Samuel and making it our own: "Speak, Lord, for I am listening." The church, body of Christ, wants to acknowledge that we are listening to Jesus; the faithfulness of each disciple of Jesus says, "Lord, I am listening to you." How do you listen to God? Is it through prayer, reading the Bible, public worship, or listening to the voice of God through others around you? Explain.

Pray: **Dear God, just as you pursued Samuel and the disciples Philip and Nathanael, we thank you for pursuing us with your love and grace today through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

To care for someone is to listen to them as Samuel listened to God when God called out to him. Is there someone who could use your attentive listening this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 139 is a beautiful and reflective psalm. Read Psalm 139:1-6 this week using a meditative tradition called *Lectio Divina*. Read it once slowly and pause for reflection. Read it again and pick out a word or phrase that stands out for you. Pause, then read it one last time and wonder how the verses can guide your life this week. Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org