



Second Sunday in Lent February 25, 2024

Preparing for Worship: Again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. Sometimes we get stuck in a pattern of messing up or doubting, again and again. Today's Gospel invites us to watch Jesus when Peter doubts the hard truths he is speaking about the cost of the Gospel. There's an invitation to listen, even when it's hard, to God's invitation to go deeper with our faith and our faithful action.

Gathering Music Gymnopédie No. 1

Erik Satie

We Approach God

Words of Welcome & Acknowledgment of the Land

Centering

In the name of God, grace and peace be with you.
And also with you.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Calling to Worship

"Listen!"

A word on Jesus' lips often in his lifetime,
inviting people, inviting us,
into the heart of the Gospel,
inviting us to break free of what holds us bound to fear,
inviting us to step forward in trust of God's promises.

"Listen is a word for us as we gather in worship.

**Listen! God is calling, through the Word,
inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

Sung Choir Response (sung twice as per music)

MV 97

"Listen!"

God is calling us to listen to hard truths,
so that we can open ourselves to the newness God offers,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

Sung Choir Response (sung twice as per music)

MV 97

Prayer of Confession

Listening God,
Take what is closed in us and open it.
Listening God,
Take what is distracted in us and settle it.
Listening God,
Take what is hurting in us and hold it.
Listening God,
Take any and all parts of us that create distance from you,
for we are like Simon Peter, O God.
Listening, Transforming God,
We argue what we don't know.
We fear what we cannot see.
And we almost always speak sooner than we listen.
So open us, settle us, hold us, and forgive us.
We long to hear you more clearly.
We long to know you more fully.
We pray for the grace to listen with courage and hope,
for your truth, and for your transforming forgiveness.
(silence for personal prayer)

Assurance of Grace

God invites us in.
God meets us where we are.
God hears our prayers.
God forgives us.
Thanks be to God for your loving forgiveness.

Hymn of Praise Praise to the Lord, the Almighty v.1,3,4 VU 220

We Listen for God's Word

Exploring the Scripture Mark 8: 31-38
This is the Gospel of God in Jesus Christ,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon Again and Again, God's Invitation to Listen Can Change Our Lives

We Respond to God

Offering Our Time, Talent and Treasure
Placing symbols of our offering of time, talent, treasure, prayer, care, and justice-seeking

Musical Offering Savior, Come and Dwell In Me Don Besig

Prayer of Dedication & Commitment

Prayers of the Community
Prayer Slips
Again and Again

*Performed by The Many**

The Lord's Prayer NZ Paraphrase VU 916

We Prepare to Serve God in the World

Life and Work of the Community

Sending Hymn Sent Out in Jesus' Name

MV 212

Sending Out with Blessing

Postlude I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Traditional American spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes

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