

February 16 Worship

Announcements/Joys-

Time Of Quiet Meditation- *“Then Isaiah said to Hezeki'ah, “Hear the word of the Lord of hosts.” Isaiah 39:5*

Opening Scripture- Isaiah 6:1-8; “In the year that King Uzzi'ah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” Then flew one of the seraphim to me, having in his hand a burning coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven.” And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

Opening Chorus- 400- Jesus Calls Us O'er The Tumult

Responsive Call To Worship-

Leader: We have come to worship God, the living God,

People: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

Leader: We have come to praise God, the almighty God.

People: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

Leader: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

People: Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.

All: Give glory to God!

Hymn- 47- Holy, Holy, Holy

Unison Prayer- Heavenly Father, we gather this morning with those who love You, that we might sing Your praises and share Your love with one another. You have shown Your faithfulness to us everyday in ways that we do not always recognize, so we gather today in order to thank You for Your constant watch-care over us. Help us to entrust our lives to You and Your purposes as we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray in the power of Your Spirit, saying....*Lord's Prayer*....

Gloria Patri- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen, Amen.

Old Testament Scripture- Psalm 138; “I give thee thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing thy praise; I bow down toward thy holy temple and give thanks to thy name for thy steadfast love and thy faithfulness; for thou hast exalted above everything thy name and thy word. On the day I called, thou didst answer me, my strength of soul thou didst increase. All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, for they have heard the words of thy mouth; and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD. For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou dost preserve my life; thou dost stretch out thy hand against the wrath of my enemies, and thy right hand delivers me. The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; thy steadfast love, O LORD, endures for ever. Do not forsake the work of thy hands.

Special Music-

Gospel Scripture- Luke 5:1-11; “While the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennes’aret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zeb’edee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men.” And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Children's Time/Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace

Hymn- 475- Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind

New Testament Scripture- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; “Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.”

Message

“You Talkin’ To Me?”

I would bet you that each one of us as, well as every Christian in the world, has at one time or another, asked the same question. How do I know if God is speaking to me? Is it God or am I just imagining that it is? The questions are natural because we want to know that God is real and what He has in store for us. The answers to these questions can cause us much confusion and anxiety as well as controversy. The only way to be sure that we are hearing from God is to turn to His Word to be sure that it is God speaking. In Paul's letter to the Hebrews, chapter 1 verses 1-2 we read this; “In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.” In the Old Testament, we hear about Moses, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Micah, Malachi, and all the other prophets. It was their purpose to relay the words that God spoke to them to us through their writings and they have been passed down to us through the centuries. John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets. Once Jesus began His ministry, John and all the prophets were out of a job. When Jesus took over, it was God Himself speaking to the world.

When we look to the New Testament, especially the gospels, for inspiration, we are opening ourselves to listening to God through the words we read. If we want to hear from God, having someone tell us to simply read the Bible is not very satisfying. We desire a more direct and personal communication. This desire can cause us many problems. Any time that we seek to hear God outside of His written Word, we run the risk of hearing something that may sound like God speaking but that is, in fact, spiritually dangerous. If someone tells you that they have a direct revelation from God and that revelation is not supported by scripture, don't listen without going to The Word for verification. “I will meditate on thy precepts, and fix my eyes on thy ways. I will delight in thy statutes; I will not forget thy word.” Psalm 119:15-16

I do believe that God speaks to us today. Perhaps it is not in the way that we think. It is not only through the sense of hearing that we get our messages from God. If I am honest about it, if I heard God speak to me I would probably have an anxiety attack. God “speaks” to us in many different ways. Imagine what must have gone through Moses' mind when he heard God's voice come out of the burning bush. What do you think Noah thought when God told him to build an ark? How about Abram who packed up his family and everything he had just because he heard God tell him to? How about you? What would you do if God spoke to you, I mean literally spoke to you, how far do you think you would run before stopping? Hearing God's spoken voice would be something to tell your kids about.

Truth be told, God communicates with us every day in ways that we may not even be aware of. That thought, or premonition, that we should go left instead of right on the road. The feeling that we need to reach out to someone we haven't thought about for a while. The urge to get something done that we have been putting off for a time. Many thoughts that come out of nowhere that, for some reason, we need to do now. God does have a way of getting our attention. How about when we are getting ready to do something that we kind of know is wrong and that feeling comes over us that we better not? Is God speaking then? Perhaps, what we perceive to be God speaking is actually the Holy Spirit that is within us. In reality, the difference is not whether it is God or the Holy Spirit, they are one and the same after all, it is in

how are we being guided. God speaks to us from where He is while the Holy Spirit speaks from within us.

How do we recognize the Holy Spirit's guidance? How do we discern between our own thoughts and His leading us? The Holy Spirit does not speak with audible words, He guides us through our own spirit, or our conscience if you will, in quiet and subtle ways. The best way to be sure to recognize the Spirit's guidance is to be familiar with God's Word. If we wish to know if the Spirit is guiding us all we have to do is look to see if what the Spirit says is in line with God's Word. The Holy Spirit cannot and will not be in conflict with the scriptures. "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."(Ephesians 6:17) It is only through our knowledge of God's Word that we are able to differentiate between the Holy Spirit or our own misguided desires.

The more that we pray, the more open the channel of communication between us and God will be. Having a strong and open line of communication with God and the Spirit allows us to be strongly aware of who is trying to guide us. Just remember that the powers of evil will try to influence us by attempting to deceive and confuse. Often times, the voice that is loudest within us is the one that will lead us astray. The more we become familiar with God, the harder it will be for us to be deceived.

As we learn to listen for that voice of love, just remember that we have the choice to listen or not. God will not force us to do His will. If we choose to ignore His guidance, we are resisting or even rejecting the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will never lead us into sin which moves us away from God. Open your spirit today and allow yourself to hear what God has to say. Praise Be to God. Amen.

Prayers of People/Prayer- You are the God who makes extravagant promises. We relish your great promises of fidelity and presence and solidarity, and we exude in them. Only to find out, always too late, that your promise always comes in the midst of a hard, deep call to obedience. You are the God who calls people like us, and the long list of mothers and fathers before us, who trusted the promise enough to keep the call. So we give you thanks that you are a calling God, who calls always to dangerous new places. We pray enough of your grace and mercy among us that we may be among those who believe your promises enough to respond to your call. We pray in the one who embodied your promise and enacted your call, even Jesus. Amen.

Closing Hymn- 380- Take My Life And Let It Be

Benediction- Go with confidence into the days ahead, trusting in God's unfailing love and faithfulness. God will not abandon you, for you are the work of His hands, His own creation, and His love endures forever. So go in joy to love and serve the Lord!