LISTEN

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



The 3rd Sunday of Lent Finding a Word: Listening to the Texts

Prelude Arietta

Gathering—Come and rest. Come and listen. Lay the fullness of your lives before our Maker.

Music Refrain:

Come and Find the Quiet Center, #477, verse 1

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,

Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:

Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we may see

All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Throughout the scriptures we encounter Wisdom personified, often associated with the Holy Spirit and the gifts of understanding and knowledge that we receive from the Spirit. In Proverbs 1, we will encounter Wisdom crying out to us, ready to reveal to us her words. We are listening carefully to the call of Wisdom in the scriptures and in our spiritual practice. We are discerning the ways that Holy Wisdom might guide our faith and reveal to us God's intention for our lives.

Music Refrain: Come and Find the Quiet Center, #477, verse 2 Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base, Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

A Time of Prayer—Holy One, we are thankful for who you are and all that you are. Your presence is desired here. We take joy in knowing that you are as close to us as our next breath. As the deer pants for water so do we thirst for you. May we be filled to overflowing with your love...+

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—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.

Choir As the Deer

Listening—Each week we have been adding a little more silence to our worship. We are creating this intentional space as part of our spiritual practice to just be in silence for a few moments. With all the chaos and the noise that surrounds us in this world, it can be hard sometimes to get things quiet enough that God's still, small voice can cut through the chatter. Here in our worship, in this sacred place and in our homes, we can find the space we need to listen deeply to God's call. Today, during out quiet time, you are invited to just let yourself be for a few moments, to notice God's presence here among you.

Silence

We Hear God's Word

Proverbs 1:20-23 (CEB)

The scripture in this series will be done in an abridged "lectio divina" format—which means "divine reading." We will hear the scripture read once and then we will let that resonate for a bit. You can think about what words or phrases stood out to you. After a few moments, we will hear the scripture read again.

Wisdom shouts in the street;

in the public square she raises her voice.

Above the noisy crowd, she calls out.

At the entrances of the city gates, she has her say:

"How long will you clueless people love your naïveté, mockers hold their mocking dear, and fools hate knowledge?

You should respond when I correct you.

Look, I'll pour out my spirit on you.

Meditation

"Finding a Word: Listening to the Texts"

Hymn

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness, 326

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation— God gives of Godself freely, so let us give freely to God. Let us bring gifts that sustain the life of the kin-dom. May these resources be more than enough.+

March Benevolence—God's Bounty Food Pantry

Doxology

We Give Thanks—God of wisdom, receive our gifts in the joy that we give them. Be it time, tithe, or talent, it all comes from you. Thank you for blessing us to be a blessing to you and each other. Amen.+

Hymn

How Can I Keep from Singing, 424

Benediction—Listen every day until we meet again. Get quiet enough to hear the still small voice and to find your own. And may the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you all. Amen.

Postlude

Postlude – Mosso Moderato