



seeking:

Who will you
listen to?

GATHERING

Gathering Song

who will you listen to?

WORDS: © 2022 Anna Strickland MUSIC: Meyer Lyon
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*The voices from the past
That echo through our minds
Like noisy ghosts haunt and harass
With words unkind
Who will we listen to?
Lies that bind and abase?
Oh God who counters words untrue
With words of grace?*

*Society demands
We always strive for more
Accumulating wealth and land
And leave the poor*

*Who will we listen to?
The tempter's jealousy?
Oh God's provision and pursuit
Of equity?*

*A rushing flood of hate
In new we often see
Conceals God's kingdom in a great
Cacophony
Who will we listen to?
The chaos all around?
Oh God's dream of a world made new
Where love abounds?*

Gathering

One: Listen!

All: There is hope to be found here.

One: Listen!

All: God calls you by name here.

One: Listen!

All: There is love that abides here.

One: This world is full of chatter, so may we do our best to listen.

All: God is speaking.

One: Let us worship.

All: Amen.

Entering the Land of the Seeking

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*There's a place you can get to without any sound
It's a place where the wick has burned out
There's a place at the point
that's past turning around
There is a place to be lost long after you're found
There's a land you can reach if you follow yourself
It's a land beyond hoarding your fears so to quell
There's a land where the bottom*

*falls out of the well
There is a land where your worry
and wonder can dwell*

*Coax your quiet questionings
Speak your soft uncertainties
There is room for these
In the land of the seeking*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

Too often we treat your Word like a radio station—something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient. Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications. In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice. Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like. Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you. With earnest hearts we pray, amen.

*Draw a map without borders
and see where you go
In the cover of night, call a question a home
Past the edge of defenses you're never alone
There is a place where your worries
and wonder are known*

*The compass points straight
to the heart of a shadow of a doubt
The key is the most honest thing
that you can't speak aloud
There is no wrong way to be unsure of things
There is no wrong way to the land of the seeking*

*Coax your quiet questionings
Speak your soft uncertainties
There is room for these
In the land of the seeking*

*Coax your quiet questionings
Speak your soft uncertainties
There is room for these
In the land of the seeking*

Words of Forgiveness

*Coax your quiet questionings
Speak your soft uncertainties*

*There is room for these
In the land of seeking*

Song of Faith

Jesus Tempted in the Desert

#2105

WORDS: Herman G, Stuempfle, Jr. (Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13)
Words © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

MUSIC: Thomas J. Williams
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*Jesus, tempted in the desert,
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:
"Use your power," the tempter tells him;*

*"Turn these barren rocks to bread!"
"Not alone by bread," he answers,
"Can the human heart be filled.*

Only by the Word that calls us
is our deepest hunger stilled!"

Jesus, tempted at the temple,
high above its ancient wall:
"Throw yourself from lofty turret;
angels wait to break your fall!"
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,
feats that fickle crowds request:
"God, whose grace protects, preserves us,
we must never vainly test."

Jesus, tempted on the mountain
by the lure of vase domain:
"Fall before me! Be my servant!
Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!"

Jesus sees the dazzling vision,
turns his eye another way:
"God alone deserves our homage!
God alone will I obey!"

[interlude]

When we face temptation's power,
lonely struggling filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,
come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect preserve us
lest we fall your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices,
be the Word we hear, obey.

ENGAGING

A Contemporary Word	who will you listen to?	Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed
The Word		Matthew 4:1-11 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
The Word in Music	Never Lost	Rev. Jim West
Message	seeking: Who will you listen to?	Rev. Rebecca Dunger Peak

Affirmation of Faith

One: In a world full of noise,

All: we believe that God is speaking.

One: In a world full of chaos,

All: we believe that God is singing.

One: In a world full of temptation,

All: we believe that God is healing.

One: Church, who will you listen to?

All: We will listen to God—our Creator, Friend, and Guide.

One: Church, what will you listen for?

**All: We will listen for water in the desert,
for the wind of the Spirit,
for the laughter of children,
for the sound of open doors,
and for God's voice, who calls us beloved.**

Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Prayers of the People

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

#2193

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Medema
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*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

[repeat]

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

Offering

You may send your gifts to the church at:

719 Court St.
Fulton, MO 65251
Courtumc.org/give

Or you can visit us at courtumc.org and look under the Give tab to donate electronically.

Prayer of Dedication

O God of Boundless Abundance, whose grace is greater than our rebellious nature, whose love is higher and wider and deeper than our imagining, don't just take the gifts we offer today but bless and utilize both the gifts and the givers to fuel ministry that enables the whole world to hear your voice and, in hearing, to follow. Amen.

Doxology

Maker in Whom We Live

#88 Vs 4

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
MUSIC: George J. Elvey

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*Eternal, Triune God, let all the hosts above,
let all on earth below record and dwell upon thy love.
When heaven and earth are fled before thy glorious face,
sing all the saints thy love hath made thine everlasting praise.*

SENDING

Upcoming

Song of Faith

Are You Listening

WORDS & MUSIC: William S. Marshall.
In the Public Domain Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal

*Do you hear the Savior calling,
By the woings of His voice?
Do you hear the accents falling?
Will you make the precious choice?
Are you listening? Are you listening?
Now, to hear the accents fall?
Are you listening? Are you listening
To the Savior's gentle call?*

*By the word of truth He's speaking
To the wandering, erring ones;
List! the voice the stillness breaking!
Hear the sweet and solemn tones!*

*Are you listening? Are you listening?
Now, to hear the accents fall?
Are you listening? Are you listening
To the Savior's gentle call?*

*In His providential dealings,
Even in His stern decrees,
In the loudest thunders pealing,
Or the murm'ring of the breeze.
Are you listening? Are you listening?
Now, to hear the accents fall?
Are you listening? Are you listening
To the Savior's gentle call?*

Blessing

Postlude

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Rev. Jim West

Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872; arr. Jim West
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Liturgy written by and adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Logo by A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Prayer of Dedication written by Rev. Rebecca Dunger Peak



seeking:

honest questions for deeper faith

daily devotional prompts & prayers

Beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing through the beginning of Easter, use these daily devotional prompts and prayers to expand and deepen your spiritual walk through Lent. You might read them first thing in the morning or incorporate them into your bedtime routine. Perhaps use the questions as prompts to journal and reflect. Day by day, may these prayers remind you that, as you seek God, God is always seeking you.

sunday

02.26.23

prompt: What voices are helpful in your life right now?

prayer: God of the still, small voice, my ears are full of chatter. Every day there is another ad, another reminder, another voice speaking. Help me recognize the voices in my life that point me toward you. Help me recognize the voices of empowerment, of hope, of connection and belonging. Fill my ears with those good news messages so that I might never forget who I am and who I belong to. Amen.

monday

02.27.23

prompt: Who inspires your faith?

prayer: God of my ancestors, there are so many people who have shaped my faith. Today, I give thanks for those people. I am grateful for those who have shown me forgiveness, who have taught me how to pray, who have inspired my faith and told me the stories of scripture. I would not be where I am today without them, so thank you for this cloud of witnesses. Amen.

tuesday

02.28.23

prompt: Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. What distractions in your life pull you off-center?

prayer: Centering God, more often than I would like to admit, I find myself chasing rabbit trails. I focus on things that do not ultimately matter. I dwell. I ruminate. I marinate in frustrations. Help me recognize unhealthy distractions for what they are, and then give me strength and wisdom so that, like Jesus in the desert, I too might say no. Amen.

wednesday

03.01.23

prompt: Where in your life would you like to say yes?

prayer: Creating God, there are countless voices that ask for our time, energy, and creativity. Sometimes I wonder—am I say-

ing yes to the right things? Do I need to adjust? Am I stretched too thin? Am I missing out on something you are calling me to? Give me the wisdom to hear your invitations and the conviction to say yes to the things that matter most. Gratefully I pray, amen.

thursday

02.25.23

prompt: What voices are harmful to you?

prayer: Loving God, one of the hardest things to do is recognize and name the voices that harm us—voices of comparison or negativity, messages of scarcity. Give me the strength to pluck those voices from my mind. Drown out the voices of temptation and harm, and replace them with your voice of love and affirmation. Amen.

friday

03.03.23

prompt: Whose voices are represented in your social media feeds or your news sources? What voices are missing?

prayer: God of all people, I have the opportunity to curate the voices I listen to. I can listen to only those who think and look like me, or I can curate my social media feeds and news sources to include a wide array of voices. Help me recognize if there are voices missing from my life right now. If there are voices that are silenced, bring them to my heart. Amen.

saturday

03.04.23

prompt: Who in your life is an excellent listener? What makes them so? How can you learn from them?

prayer: Listening God, you have gifted certain people with the spiritual gift of listening. For that, I give you thanks. I have been comforted, encouraged, and strengthened in my faith by good listeners. Help me learn from them so that I too may bless other people with a listening ear. Amen.