

Benediction

*Closing Song: "We Will Extol You, God and King"

We will extol you, God and King, and bless your holy name.

Day after day we'll sing your praise, forever and forever.

Chorus:

One generation will call to the next:

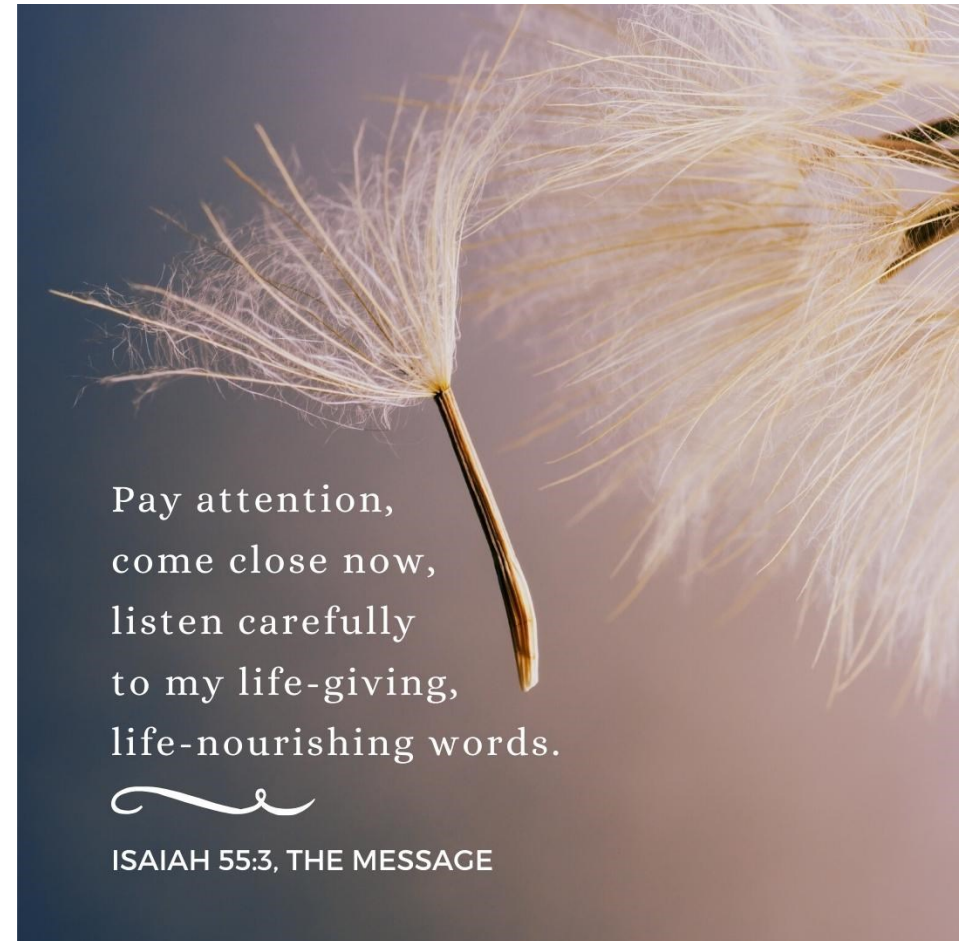
"Our God is good and his hand is strong!"

***All of the world sings his marvelous acts
and our voice will join with theirs in the song.***

Now may your name be sung in every tongue, in every place.

Singing the fame of your great love in every generation. (to chorus)

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"Learning to recognize and understand God's voice takes patience. We live in a culture that expects immediate results while ignoring how distracted, cluttered, and fractured we are. We need to practice listening because our attention is often divided in multiple directions. Learning to listen well means extending grace to ourselves by being patient with ourselves and realizing that it can take time for us to recognize the cadences of God's voice."

-Chris Schoon

Worship Participants

Drama: Jeff & David Taylor, Dave Schelhaas

Sound: Jeff Ploegstra ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

What is a Faith Practice?

A spiritual discipline (or Faith Practice) is a regularly repeated practice that can, both personally and communally:

- enrich our attentiveness to the Holy Spirit,
- cultivate the life and character of Jesus Christ in us,
- strengthen our love for God and others.

These transformations equip us to better serve God and our neighbor.

How do we define Listening as a Faith Practice?

“As a faith practice, listening involves training ourselves to recognize God’s voice (John 10:1-6) in the midst of all the other voices calling for our attention. It involves learning to be fully present in the moment, setting aside distractions that keep us from attending to and responding to God’s presence around us.” (Chris Schoon)

-From Faith Formation Ministries

Gather

Eating Together and Table Discussion Time

Opening Activity: Telephone

*Opening Song: “Open Our Eyes”

Open up our ears to listen.

Open up our eyes to see.

Plant the seed of understanding.

Grow it up like the tallest tree.

Pull the blinds, open wide all the windows.

Fill our hearts with the light of your truth

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Opening Prayer

We Listen to Others

Table Activity

How to Listen Well

Why Listen to Others:

“Just as love to God begins with listening to his word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, (James 1:19)

Response

We Listen to God

Readers Theater: I Samuel 3:1-3

Response

Practice: Praying or Listening in Color

For God alone my soul in silence waits; truly my hope is in Him. (Psalm 62:2)

God Listens to Us

Scripture: Psalm 116:1-2

“I love the Lord because he has heard my voice
and my pleas for mercy.

Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.”

Practice: Joys and Concerns

Song: “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

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!

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