

Our Service of Worship for January 17, 2021
The Second Sunday after Epiphany
Westwood First Presbyterian Church

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"—arr. Dale Wood

During the Prelude, you are invited to take a moment to prepare for worship.

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Hymn: "*Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*" * Noelle Scheper, soprano

A Time of Confession

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; John 1:35-51 *

Sermon: "*Listen!*"

Solo: "Be Thou My Vision"—Heather MacPhail, piano

The Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn: "*Here I am Lord*" * Noelle Scheper, soprano

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: "Ye Servants of God"—arr. Carolyn Hamlin

* The words to the hymns and the Scripture reading are included with the order of worship.

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi

Pastor

Heather MacPhail

Organist/Director of Music Ministries

הִנְנִי
here i am
HINENI

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

1. Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of Thy tone;
Thou hast sought, so let me seek Thine erring children, lost and lone.
2. Oh, teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which thou dost impart;
And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.
3. Oh, fill me with Thy fullness, Lord, until my very hearts o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.
4. Oh, use me, Lord, use ever me, just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

Here I Am, Lord

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away
I will break their hearts of stone. Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart

First Reading: 1st Samuel 3:1-10—Samuel's Calling

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵ and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

⁶ The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰ Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Gospel Reading: John 1:35-51—The First Disciples of Jesus

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹ And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

Moment for Meditation: Hineni

Hineni (pronounced hee-nay-nee) Here I am.

- In the OT, the word hineni is used when people respond to a direct call from God.

Hineni is a Hebrew biblical expression meaning in our English language “Here I am.”

- It’s used in OT to respond to a divine call.
- Is a reply of total surrender, total dedication to do what is requested.
- It’s a humble answer stating, “At your Service.”

Hineni expresses readiness to give yourself in total availability.

- Hineni...implies complete presence...giving full attention to hear what God is saying and willing to fulfill the requested task.
- This answer marks a turning point in the lives of those who have responded to God with this word.
- Hineni is the right way to respond to God’s call. His desire should be our command.

In our lives God’s call (Ayeka/Ayyekkah in Hebrew) “Where are you?”

God’s call comes every day at various moments in our lives. In a growing love relationship with Him, God longs to hear his Beloved answer “Hineni,” in the joyful moments as in the moments of sadness, in victory and in defeat, in sickness and health, in lack and abundance. However most of the time, we are busy; deaf and blind. We can’t hear His quiet call within the context of our busyness. Avoidance often declares, we don’t have time for this divine interruption with our goals and agendas. Yet He continues to call us.

Adapted from: <https://www.agatheringministry.org/blogs/news/hineni-means-here-i-am>