



*God Reveals Himself to Samuel, by Linda Jeanne Rivers*



*Jacob's Dream, by Vladimir Bibikov*

## OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP, JULY 31, 2022 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WESTWOOD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CINCINNATI, OH



### GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

*[Please take a moment to silence all mobile devices and prepare for worship.]*

**Prelude:** "Come, All Christians, Be Committed" —arr. Gilbert M. Martin

#### **Ringling of the Tower Bell**

*[\* Where indicated (\*), those who are able are invited to stand.]*

#### **\* Call to Worship (Responsive)**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Children of God: welcome!

**Welcome to this place of love and grace,**

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

**God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,**

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

**We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.**

We gather today to worship the One who created us,

**The One who calls us,**

The One who equips us,

**The One who loves us without end.**

Therefore with joyful hearts, let us worship God.

#### **Opening Prayer**

\* **Hymn No. 434 (vv. 1-2, 4):** “*Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*”

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,  
To help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,  
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,  
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race  
To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God’s grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

May we in service to our God act out the living Word,  
And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord  
To God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

### Invitation to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

**Merciful God, hear our prayer: For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness; for the healing of our souls, withered by the despair around us; for the forgiveness we seek for the sins that persist; for the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us. We pray for the courage to admit our fault, the strength to amend our actions, and the hope that your grace awaits us. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

#### A Moment for Silent, Personal Confession

#### Assurance of Forgiveness (*Titus 3:4-7—responsive*)

Brothers and sisters, believe the good news: “When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”:

**Thanks be to God!**

May the peace of Christ be with you each and every day!

**And also with you!**

\* **Response: Gloria Patri (*Unison*)**

**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.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

✚ August WestFed Food Pantry needs: Cereal, canned vegetables (beans, peas, corn, carrots, etc.)

✚ Flowers are given this week:

- ♥ By the Hedrick children in honor of their mother, Anna Hedrick’s 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 3.
- ♥ To the glory of God.

✚ **BLOC Ministries**—Next Saturday, August 6, we are gathering upstairs at BLOC Coffee Company at 801 Mt Hope Ave, to learn more about this fantastic ministries and see how we might partner with them! The orientation starts at 9 a.m. Please see Wendy Beckman if you have questions!

✚ Prayers are requested for:

- ♥ John Schickner, who is recovering from COVID, at Shawneespring in Harrison.
- ♥ Wendy’s former student, Nick, whose condition has worsened after a 12 year battle with cancer. Please pray for Nick’s family, his doctors, and his comfort.
- ♥ Cynthia Hines, Sandy Morris’ sister, and husband DJ, dealing with health issues.
- ♥ Mike and Amy Babicke’s 8 mo. old nephew Luke, who has Kawasaki disease.
- ♥ Cathie DeFazio, who is dealing with a rare melanoma behind her right eye, and Larry DeFazio, who is healing from a torn right rotator cuff.
- ♥ Linda Kugele who continues to deal with breathing issues.
- ♥ Our homebound members and friends.
- ♥ Our Scouting units, their families and leaders.
- ♥ Our Session, our committees, and the discernment team.
- ♥ Our partnership with City Gosel Mission’s Princesses Ballet.



## MOMENT FOR MEDITATION: DOES GOD SPEAK TO US?

Yes, God speaks directly to humans. Over 2,000 times in the Old Testament there are phrases such as, “And God spoke to Moses” or “the word of the Lord came to Jonah” or “God said.” We see an example of this in Jeremiah 1:9. “The LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, ‘Now I have put my words in your mouth.’” Jeremiah claims to speak specific words God had put into his mouth. During the birth of Jesus, God spoke to Mary through an angel; he spoke to Joseph through a dream; he spoke to the shepherds through an angel and he spoke to the Magi through a dream. Yes, God speaks!

~ Steve Bond, lead pastor, Summit Christian Church, Sparks

Never a doubt! God has a long history of speaking directly to humans. In Scripture—Old and New Testaments—you will see God has made it a priority to communicate directly with us over the centuries. If you love someone, you find every opportunity to communicate—it’s no different for God. Though you may not have experienced this (yet) God doesn’t reserve this loving, intimate conversation for saints alone.

There is a lot of competition in our lives for the voice of God; the trick is to make time for quiet: intervals of solitude, hiking or running without earphones, sitting beside a candle trusting your presence is enough. Breathe. God is patient, so must we be. We cannot make these encounters happen by willpower; it is all God’s initiative—our part is the response. Our heart should be open, expectant; don’t worry about “doing it” right or imagining the whisper.

~ Monique Jacobs, director of faith formation, Roman Catholic Diocese of Reno

Yes. Our God is a relational God, and one of His chief desires is to grow His relationship with humanity through regular communication. Throughout human history, God has initiated communication with humanity by speaking audibly to humans. He also speaks to us through the glory of His creation. Additionally, He speaks to us through His Holy Spirit and through dreams, visions and our thoughts.

Further, God will use events and circumstances to speak with us. More often than not, God uses the people He has placed in our lives to speak to us. Over the years, those who have heard His voice have recorded what He has had to say in His written word, the Bible. God continues to speak through the words that were written. The question is: Are humans listening? “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts...” (Hebrews 3:15).

~ Jason D. Guinasso, associate pastor, Ministerio Palabra de Vida

## PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### **First Reading:** *Job 33:12b-18*

God is greater than any mortal. <sup>13</sup> Why do you contend against him, saying, ‘He will answer none of my words’? <sup>14</sup> For God speaks in one way and in two, though people do not perceive it. <sup>15</sup> In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on mortals, while they slumber on their beds, <sup>16</sup> then he opens their ears and terrifies them with warnings, <sup>17</sup> that he may turn them aside from their deeds and keep them from pride, <sup>18</sup> to spare their souls from the Pit, their lives from traversing the River.

#### **Second Reading:** *1 Samuel 3:1-10,19-20—4:1*

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.”

<sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

<sup>19</sup> As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beer-Sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord. <sup>1</sup> And the word of Samuel came to all Israel.

**Sermon:** “*Trouble Sleeping*”

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Invitation to Stewardship

*[No offering will be collected. Please place your offerings in the baskets located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity—now and always!]*

### Offertory Prayer (Unison)

**God Most Holy, you have set us free to worship you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Receive our gifts of time, talent, treasure as acts of worship, and let all that we do bless your beloved people in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Offertory Solo:** “*I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked*”—arr. Geoffrey O’Hara  
Travis Pearce, tenor

### Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

*[During the prayer, everyone will have an opportunity to offer a joy or concern aloud. During the pause, feel free to call out the name of someone for whom prayer is requested, or briefly, a joy or concern on your heart. The prayer concludes with 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.**

## BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

\* **Hymn No. 525:** “*Here I Am, Lord*”

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?

*[Refrain]* 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.

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 word to them. Whom shall I send?

*[Refrain]*

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?

*[Refrain]*

### Charge

### Benediction

**Postlude:** “*Voluntary in C*” from *Melodic Suite*—Charles Callahan



## LEADING WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi, *Pastor*

Heather MacPhail, *Organist/Director of Music Ministries*

Jason Dennison, *Videographer/Director of Technology*

Mary Beth Baverman, *Lay Worship Leader*

