

I once heard young poet laureate, Amanda Gorman, declare,
*"If we merge mercy with might and might with right,
then love becomes our legacy."*

Walking along the shoreline he began to build his legacy of love. He chose disciples from the packed, damp sand by the water's edge the way many of us stop to collect shells, bits of driftwood, and colorful sea glass. He called to them on an ordinary day, over the sound of gulls and their rough-hewn nets, he invited them to join his mission. Peter and Andrew, James and John. They left their nets, boats, fish, and families and followed him. Talk about faith in action. Peter, Andrew, James and John could not have foreseen how dropping their nets and blindly following would lead them to set a new course for their lives. How might we be awakened to hear and hopefully share the Good News?

Fun fact of the day: Grace Kelly, Bob Newhart, Dick Clark, Audrey Hepburn, Martin Luther King, Jr, Barbara Walters and Anne Frank were all born in 1929. Sit with that for a moment. What diverse lives lived within this same timeline! Most went on to become famous entertainers, but two are more globally celebrated as people who made a difference by their courage.

We can get so inwardly focused on what is happening right here and now that we miss the global picture. Jonah, asked to be thrown into the water. James, John, Andrew, and Peter, left their boats and their work behind. In the same lifetime that Dr. King's ministry became activism, Gandhi was having non-violent protests in India, fighting for his country's independence. Mother Teresa was traveling the east helping the poor and desolate, while Anne Frank was fighting to survive hidden away in a secret room. Twenty-two-year-old Amanda Gorman, is a modern day voice for truth. How can we make sure **our voice** makes a difference...because every voice is needed!

Blessings! Pastor Fred Young

Announcements

- ~Reminder: We are not using printed envelopes for offerings in order to save money and paper. You may pick up a packet of envelopes in the Gathering Place for either monthly or weekly contributions.
 - ~To be good stewards of God's earth, beginning next week (January 28) we will recycle paper and plastic. Please look for the recycling paper containers at both entrances. Feel free to put any unwanted bulletins in these containers. The container for plastic bottles will be in The Gathering Place.
 - ~**Grace Hat & Mitten Tree:** The congregation donated 40 pairs gloves, 1 ear muff, 6 scarves, 4 pairs socks, and 23 hats in December. These items were divided between Hoffman Homes and Hanover Area Council of Churches. Thank you for your support.
 - ~In case of inclement weather, updates will be made to Facebook and The Prayer Line
 - ~The Bible Study group will be watching Facing the Giants on Wednesday, Jan 24th at 1pm in Fellowship Hall.
 - ~Worship and Music (and the altar guild) will meet Monday, Jan 22nd at 6:30pm
- ### Grace Outreach Activities
- ~ Assembly for the Lentil Brown Rice Soup Jar Mixes will be Saturday January 27 at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall. The snow date is February 3rd at 10 AM
 - ~February 25, immediately after the worship service, there will be a gathering for anyone interested in signing cards for any Grace off site saints, college students and those serving in the military.

Saying
Yes!
to God

Grace United Church of Christ
100 Fourth Street
Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331
717-632-1146

*~ In case of inclement weather, please call the Prayer Line
717-634-8865 or check Facebook.*

Welcome/Announcements
Westminster Chimes
Prelude

** Song: "In the House" ~ Crowder *

** Call to Worship

Lector: We are here to worship you, Lord.

Congregation: We are hear to listen to your word.

Lector: We are here to offer our gifts in response to your great love and mercy.

Congregation: We are here to confess our sins and receive forgiveness.

Lector: We are here to profess what we believe.

Congregation: We are here to hear your call and to answer YES! Come, Holy Spirit. We are listening, Lord.

** Opening Prayer:

Dear Lord, Creator God, You call to us throughout the ages, throughout the day, and throughout all our lives. In busy days, in quiet moments, in joy and in sorrow you call to us. We are here. Open our hearts and our minds to your Holy Spirit. Let us feel Christ's presence among us. Unite us as one people, your people, to be refreshed, refueled, and inspired. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

Joys and Concerns
Prayer of Confession/Praying for Others
Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)
Silent Reflection
Assurance of Grace

Poem: "The Power of YES!"

Thank you for sharing your tithes and offerings

** Doxology

625

** Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (The Message)

Mark 1:14-20 (The Message)

Time for the Young at Heart

Hymn: "And I have Decided to Follow Jesus"

376

Message: "Saying 'Yes' to God"

Video: "Matters of the Heart"

** Song: "Lead on Good Shepherd" ~ Patrick Mayberry *

** Final Blessing

Please remain standing to sing "A Choral Benediction"
(Inside front of hymn book or on screen).

Postlude

*On the screen

** Please stand, if you are able.



The Power of Yes

This time Jonah started off straight for Nineveh, obeying God's orders to the letter. Jonah 3:3

Like children we may hesitate
To follow God's commands.
We may excuses weak create
Avoiding reprimands.
We struggles with priorities
And even lose our way.
We often fail our Lord to please
When we do not obey.

Distracted by each selfish need
We do not make the choice
To follow Christ, although he pleads,
Compelling with his voice.
Like Jonah we may try to flee,
Be swallowed by desire;
In time if we will but agree,
Then miracles transpire.

"Come, follow me," our Savior asks,
And we must never swerve,
Accept the God-inspired tasks,
And witness, work, and serve.
No running or evasion of
The call of faithfulness.
Commit to Jesus Christ and love -
The power of saying, "Yes!"

What to do when you feel forgotten

What are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?—Psalm 8:4

A man from the city was visiting relatives out on a farm. He watched as his uncle whistled at his dog and his dog herded cattle into the corral. Then, the dog latched the gate with her paw. The man was astounded and said, *"Wow! That's some dog. What's her name?"*

The old farmer thought for a minute before he asked, *"What do you call that red flower that smells good and has thorns on the stem?"*

"A rose?"

"That's it!" the farmer exclaimed as he turned to his wife. *"Rose, what's the name of this dog?"*

People can often forget some very important details of life. But there's one who never forgets anything: God. In fact, He's so mindful of us that He rescued us from the darkness of sin even though our sin separated us from Him.

Don't be discouraged when you feel forgotten by others. **Instead, think of the one who always remembers you and loves you so much that He rescued you from the very sin that separated you from Him.** Remember God!

Prayer Challenge

Pray that God would encourage you when others forget you and thank Him that He loves you and is mindful of you enough to save you from your sins.

Questions for thought

Think of a time when someone you cared about forgot something important. How did it make you feel?

What does God's act of sending Jesus to rescue you say about how He loves you?



Sunday, January 14, 2024

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Listening to God is far more important than giving him your ideas.
—Frank Laubach



The little boy Samuel had been living in the temple ever since his mother Hannah had delivered him into the watchful care of the priest, Eli. There must have been days when the young Samuel wondered what his mother had gotten him into. He was in training to become a full-time servant of God, but not once had he perceived God's presence in the temple or God's purpose for his life. Samuel had been dedicated to God, but where was God?

Good mentor that he was, Eli gives Samuel three definite things to do so that he may be ready for a visit from God: "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening'" (v. 9). Look at this advice carefully.

LIE DOWN: Samuel is much like the rest of us. He is so busy running around that he hardly knows where he is going. Eli's advice to "lie down" is a way of saying, "Let go and let God. Relax. Surrender to a force bigger than you."

LISTEN UP: The second part of Eli's advice to Samuel is implied when he begins to describe what Samuel should do "if he calls you." In order to hear that call, Samuel must be listening. In order for all of us to have a vision of God or to experience God's presence, we must use our ears.

TALK BACK: God waits for us to respond, to question, even challenge the divine word that comes to us. Because God wants a relationship with us, we must be able to understand God's will and perceive God's wisdom. We must talk back to God. Sometimes, this dialogue is nothing more than our consent — as Samuel utters when the word of the Lord finally comes to him. Sometimes it is a far more interactive, problematic conversation — as it was with Job, Moses, Jonah or Jeremiah.

God offers us a new way of seeing, of envisioning the world. The greatest vision God sent us is Jesus Christ. In Christ's resurrection we are assured God's presence is frequent, that it is continually with us in this world.

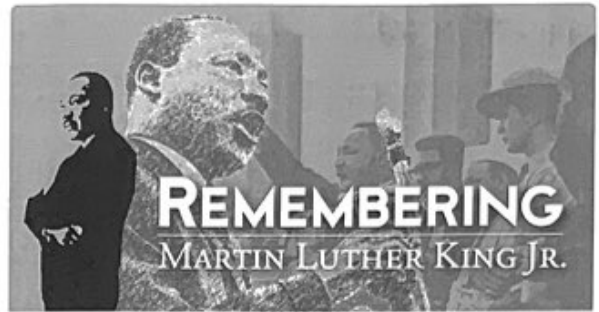
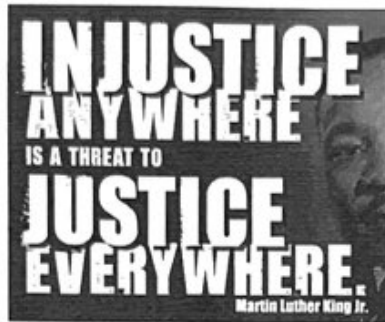
In relationship with Christ, we can be assured that Eli's advice still holds. For in Christ, we can trust God enough to lie down, listen up and talk back.

—Adapted by Timothy Merrill, from HomileticsOnline.com. Used with permission.

Prayer: O God, how easy it is to get so busy with life, that we don't have time to sit still and listen for what the Spirit may be saying. Calm me down, God. Speak to me in the stillness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Matthew 1
Monday: Matthew 2
Tuesday: Matthew 3-4
Wednesday: Matthew 5
Thursday: Matthew 6
Friday: Matthew 7
Saturday: Psalms 2-3



CLARITY CRISIS

DIRECTIONS: Write a word to fit each definition. Then, transfer the letters to the numbered boxes.

A large, dangerous sea creature with a fin on its back

15 20 5 23 3

A place to shop

8 7 1 16

A red vegetable

9 4 14 21

To work hard, sweating

10 11 2 6

A shack

13 18 12

To grow old

17 19 22

THE BEATITUDES

S W B I N R U O M H Y C U N X
W D L D N C O M F O R T E D D
N E V A E H Z T E S D R O O P
L R E A B L E S S E D G K V M
X U U Z N K L R M L K O N W I
B P X D B P E I I K Q Z Y I I
Z M Z Z D G B H F T E R N V K
L M M Y N F C T Y B S T Z W O
V K H U N H C R B W M B V Z I
H D H M A B Q A Q T N P A X H
O J J S H S A E V Y W P F O X
W L W E V J Z H L J E X F Z Y
S I A Q M B Y S B C U S L W E
T A I H C M W E H Q H J M S I
V W S F T L E R E A C Y J P E

Directions: Look for these words from the Matthew 5 reading listed above: blessed, children, comforted, earth, filled, God, heart, heaven, hunger, inherit, kingdom, meek, mourn, poor, pure, thirst.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Answers:
shark,
mall,
beet,
toil,
hut,
age.
Like a
lamb to
the
slaughter.



Johah 3:1-5

O C J Z J J K A G X I P A B O W Y D Y O M I U E H
 M D Y E F O B I V R W U U X O H W T S O K J M P P
 L Y D O Z N N U N R I V B U B J J I C Q Q K I F U
 J E C P I A P N X G P K V P H D T O M C H Q K D J
 H K M R R H P D Q D P G Z R C E V N I V E H E H F
 K F A Y O I P Z F J V E Q O I S K L X D O T T O O
 B Y B E J I Y G K Z N T C C C T C B M F O D Y J B
 Z S W P F Q W Z M P G I A L Y R K G J V C M P T E
 W C Y X P H S J P D E M R A B O V G Z O G P I W Y
 K L I O V Y Q A C Y A Q N M J Y L C K P A A A B E
 L T A Y A W E T C O K D R A M E Q T G C E F F E D
 A C C A P S H I L K U S H T H D G S D A T O K K U
 R T K Y Y E O X C R C Y X I J B J H Z C O J W B Q
 U E B N U B C P S Y Z L M O E Q R W L W A W F T C
 C R P X J K L O R D A O O N R R S L M A P R H J J
 M K C E F V K G Y L V T I T O Z X H S I V G Z U R
 W H N S N O G T D D Y G M M H U E R Y D W W T D E
 J U C Y Z T U R V K N Z G B D R M X U A F O L U H
 K X G U C V E Q Z V M Y D N D Q H Q G S S R G Z U
 Z G L Q C J I D M U F U J P G N T L A H Z T D T H
 M Q G S A E W H S M B K B J B O P V H E O Y V M F
 U F O H E W B D N V E N W M A J Z T T S R F E N T
 W L R U I K O B N G N G B G B D T F Y K K A Q P X
 T Y U Y K X H Z T I Q W D L N P N R I R D W T N O
 Q W D R B C X H Y A M L B R S Y N K X V C H J Z P

Proclamation

Destroyed

Sackcloth

King

Repented

Niveheh

Obeded

Lord

Ashes

Jonah

Psalms 62: 5-12

R E S I T N G N I S S E L B V T E L L E
 C H P W D V N A T D O O N O A E E E A S
 L E T S G U F T E S R P S T N S I S L E
 I S T T C E A L R N E R R L S A C H R G
 H H N E A I E E R O N O H R U P N S A E
 E E E N N C E L O T A T S T P D V P R R
 E L S S S E W I H N S E Y Y A I R N V E
 S T V A H U S E O A P C E I T F L D E I
 N E H F G L A S P D E T L U I V S I E E
 R R H H E U I A E E A S D N E P E D N N
 B F F R T G S A E T D E F E N D E R N A
 H D E E S S S R F H E H S C T W E R S I
 E G U F E R U S A E L P A S L E L D N A
 O S I E R E T L S A R L L O Y S T D E S
 E H V U T L C S L R S R V E N W G E V O
 O O L I T S U R T T I I A A R L R H O E
 E E T S R T R R E E L T T T T R E A P E
 S I N A I S S B E L O U I U L U D N V H
 I T I A W S E V A S E F O R E S T I E N
 E L A A P T E D T E R A N G T E G V R I

WAIT
 SAVES
 LIES
 HOPE
 REFUGE

PATIENTLY
 DEFENDER
 BLESSING
 SALVATION

DEPEND
 HONOR
 HEART
 SHELTER

PROTECTS
 PLEASURE
 CURSE
 TRUST

Listening to God's Call

A E H A G E I E V O L E P P O L R O T S S C S I G
 G N N Y C V A L O E T Y A P A S E E A F R S V O N
 U Q N T E O R P C R A I I T U L E R L P C O T S F
 L T T A E E O H T I E L P E A C E Y R R A P E U N
 L P R I I W O R V T L I A F S R H L Q S L N S N R
 P R A G T V I S E R V I C E F S T U A P L W N A E
 O N N E T O L E C N A T S I S E R A L L I E O I N
 P L Q N V Y E E V N R I T F O L L O W I N G R R O
 R P U A C F I A S O Y N L C I S Q O A R G E L I I
 G C I V R L W W L O A F O C I C E S P A R T P P E
 Y T L U F R E Y A R P P W C C A T L A T L F T I Y
 A U I R E E L T I S T I C I A U I P N L T R L F A
 Q A T R I E P L I W R A Y R S U I E I Y H U I F O
 R R Y L F P Y P I O F S Y L P E Y N A I Y E I P E
 R T E I N N L P N A S O Q T I S P E O U V I N E H
 O S P P C L T N A E O A W O R I I P P R O I N V I
 A F A I E T T A E T S A A E I L E P O H O P E Q N
 R U R R Q A R I L T A Y S V T P R T P T V P U C R
 T N N R I T C T Q G I G T I I I I N L C S S E F P
 O U Y P P L U L O L T Y N P P L A A I O R L I E E
 L N U I I P L P Y T I N U T R O P P O I U V E I Q
 I T Y N I I O E S R R C Y C P F E T I P O I A A I
 L F I R T A I R U O V G O T Y T R E P E O L T E R
 Y E T E E U S R R P H E A G O C L E O H P T P N Y
 I O E N S A E E I N T A T S C T U F T G Q Y L N F

Calling
 Following
 Hope
 Love
 Opportunity
 Peace
 Prayerful
 Resistance
 Service
 Spirit
 Tranquility

