

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 17, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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Order of Worship, including Scripture

Seasonal Theme:

Jesus grows up, and it begins to dawn on some who and what he is.

Theme for the day:

God calls us to ministry and discipleship. This is a special call to a certain kind of life as well.

Call to worship:

(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer).

Pastor: Who is calling us?

People: **Come and see.**

Pastor: Who calls us, "Follow me."

People: **We follow the one who calls us.**

Pastor: The One who calls you together this day yearns for each of you and for all people to hear and be blessed.

People: **Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.**

Pastor: Blessed is the One who comes bringing trustworthy words for the healing of the world.

Unison: **Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening. Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Creating God, how deeply you know us. In the mystery of your love, you see who we are and who we might become. Our bodies are your creation; they are wonderfully made. Show us your will for all creation. Help us to listen to your urgings with prayerful hearts, so that we may honor what you have made. By your Holy Spirit, O God, open our ears, our eyes, our hearts, and our minds to the Holy Word, so that it comes to rule within us, for Jesus's sake. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **1 Corinthians 1:12-20** **John 1:43-51**
 Psalm 139 **1 Samuel 3:1-10**

(readings begin on page 3)

Message: ***WE ARE THE PRICEY TEMPLES!***

Pastoral Prayer

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Almighty God, you are the source of all goodness and life. We bring our offering to you this day, knowing that all we have comes from you. We hear your call and we answer, bringing all that we have and all that we are. Bless us in every way, Lord, and use our gifts, our talents, and our bodies for your work of peace and justice. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Listen to the word of the Lord, as all things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial. Trust the Holy Spirit for your choices. Stay with His peace, knowing that he loves you and embody his abundant blessing.

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(readings begin on the next page)

SCRIPTURE READINGS for January 17, 2021

first reading – **1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20**

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

second reading – **JOHN 1:43-51**

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 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.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” 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.”

third reading – **PSALM 139**

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

[reading continues on next page]

O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me— those who speak of you maliciously, and lift themselves up against you for evil!

Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

fourth reading – 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

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. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; 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. Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” 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. 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.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. 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. 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. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.