



6-9-14 Search Committee of Trinity Episcopal Church

Opening Prayer

O God, you led your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place: Grant that your Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of your kingdom; through him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP p.256)

Reflection

O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! (Ps. 81:13)

Discernment involves listening. We must listen with open hearts and open minds, especially to what we do not want to hear. If discernment is to take place, we must let go of our preconceptions and expectations. We must be willing to hear the appealing and the unappealing, the familiar and the unfamiliar. If we become selective, we may turn a deaf ear to God.... We must listen in silence, for stillness and silence enable us to hear. Elijah did not hear God in the mighty wind or in the earthquake or in the fire but in a still, small voice (1 Kings 19:11-13)

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently.... (Ps. 37:7)

Remember, it is God's call, not our call. So we need to be content to incline our ears with patience. In the meantime, let us offer up our prayers to God, asking God repeatedly to nurture our faith. Still, while patience is called for at times, a sense of urgency is sometimes imperative. C.S. Lewis warns against progressing quietly and comfortably toward hell. "But everything has its time, and the main thing is that we keep step with God, and do not keep pressing on a few steps ahead—nor keep dawdling a step behind."

Suzanne G. Farnham, Joseph P. Gill, R. Taylor McLean and Susan M. Ward. *Listening Hearts.*

When our work is done: At the Close of Day

Psalms 134

Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, * you that stand by night in the house of the LORD. Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; * the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

A Reading

Lord, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14:9,22*

The following may be said together

Lord, you now have set your servant free * to go in peace as you have promised; For these eyes of mine

have seen the Savior, * whom you have prepared for all the world to see; A Light to enlighten the nations, * and the glory of your people Israel.

Prayers for ourselves and others may follow. It is appropriate that prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings of the day, and penitence for our sins, be included.

The Lord's Prayer, traditional

The Collect

O LORD, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. *Amen.*