Listen, That You May Live
by Pastor Katy

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.  

Isaiah 55:2b-3a

The world is a noisy place. This isn’t new; crashing waves and thunder and wind and frogs (to name just a few) have always filled the earth with sound. But we humans have added a lot more: honking horns and ringing phones, the hum of appliances running all the time, beeping computers and elevator music. And talking. Lots and lots of talking.

There are countless ways for us to share our ideas, and a lot of benefits to that freedom. You can air your views on television, social media, or by posting videos you took with your phone. Snapchat and TikTok and Twitter value a quick, funny, eye-catching approach (and a whole lot of cat videos). You can Zoom with friends across the world even when you haven’t been able to see each other for years. You could talk 24 hours a day if you wanted to.

But listening? That’s entirely different.

Since the summer of 2020, members of Holy Spirit Lutheran have gathered for a weekly Anti-Racism Forum. We’ve talked about opportunities to support community events and partnerships; we’ve shared books, podcasts, and learning moments. We’ve spoken honestly: sharing anger, lament, hope, doubt, fear, and wonder.

We’ve also, slowly and imperfectly, begun to listen. Listen to each other; to experiences outside our own lives. Listen to the wisdom and challenge from leaders in this nation and around the world. Listen to the questions some of us never thought of asking before. Listen to the call that we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Calling All Artists for a Holy Week Art Exhibit

Our Lenten theme for this year will be Listen, God Is Calling. To provide an opportunity for some focused listening and creativity around the Passion Story, we will put up a Journey to the Cross art exhibit in the Fellowship Hall during Holy Week that anyone can come and walk through on their own time. We will display art from artists around the world that show the different parts of Christ’s Passion Story and the Resurrection.

In addition, folks of all ages are invited to draw their own pictures of Christ’s Passion Story to display alongside these international artists. There are 12 scenes to choose from: The Last Supper, Praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Betrayal of Judas, the Denial of Peter, Christ Before Pilate, the Crown of Thorns, Jesus Carries His Cross, the Crucifixion, Women Weep For Jesus, Christ in the Tomb, Women at the Tomb, and the Resurrection. Art must be submitted by Friday, April 8th. Contact Pastor Gina at pastorgina@hslckirkland.org with questions.
Pastor’s Letter (continued)

Through this process and the leadership of Mike Murphy, we met Huayruro. In Peruvian and other cultures, Huayruro (why-ee-ru-ro) seeds bring good luck and protection, as well as being the seed from which all living things originate. In Seattle, Huayruro is an organization which offers learning in the realms of inclusion, anti-racism, and community healing. This is done through questioning, listening, and conversation.

As we make our way back into community life together, we believe listening to each other is the most important way to start. And not simply being quiet enough until it’s our turn to speak – the deep listening which is a spiritual practice, in which we grant each other space to share who we truly are, what we know, and what we wonder about.

This Lent, the Anti-Racism Task Force invites you to journey with Huayruro as our facilitators in a series of listening circles. These will take place on March 12th and 26th (both Saturdays) from 10 am to noon, with March 19th being a time for self-reflection. Please join this journey into Listening, Sharing, Meditation, and Understanding. As the prophet Isaiah reminds us, “Listen, that you may live.”

Pastor Katy

Sign Up to Lead In-Person Worship

For the months of March and April, we have switched to a different process for signing up to lead in worship as an acolyte, assisting minister, usher, greeter or sound booth operator.

Look for sign up sheets in the narthex and sign up to serve in any of these worship roles in March and April. You can also contact the church office to sign up (425-823-2727 or office@hslckirkland.org).

If you have any questions, contact John Sparkman at music@hslckirkland.org.

Great Decisions 2022

Mondays at 7pm through April 4th

HSLC continues to host the annual Great Decisions study program of the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) where we are meeting to discuss the major foreign policy issues facing our nation and world today and how it informs our faith. In the ELCA Social Statement For Peace in God’s World (1995) we are reminded of our role as Christians to “challenge, debate and learn so that we might better advocate for solutions and where need is manifest, find ways to meet it.” For more information about the ELCA’s statement, please read the revised summary at download.elca.org/ELCA/Resource/Repository/For_Peace_In_Gods_World_BriefSummary.pdf, or the full statement, at download.elca.org/ELCA/Resource/Repository/PeaceSS.pdf.

For more than 100 years, the FPA’s mission is to serve as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. Through its balanced, nonpartisan programs and publications, the FPA encourages citizens to participate in the foreign policy process.

We’ve been meeting via Zoom, but hope to meet in-person in March. To register, visit https://www.hslckirkland.org/great-decisions. A link to order an electronic version of the resource book is available there.

TOPICS for 2022: Changing Demographics, Outer Space, Climate Change, Russia and the U.S., Myanmar and Asean, the Quad Alliance, Drug Policy in Latin America, Industrial Policy, and Biden’s Agenda.

Questions? Contact Mary-Alyce Burleigh at 425-890-5010 or maryburl@comcast.net.
Holy Spirit Lutheran Preschool: Accepting Applications for 2022-2023

Your child can let their light shine at HSLC’s play-based preschool, which focuses on STEM, pre-literacy, outdoor play, and socio-emotional development. We welcome children from many different cultural, economic, and faith backgrounds to learn through play, art, and nature. We are fortunate to get to share HSLC’s mission of inclusive faith formation and help children to learn more about the world around them.

- 3-4 year old: “Rockets” class – Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:30-1:00
- 4-5 year old: PreK “Explorers” class – Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays 9:30-1:00

Learn more about our preschool at www.holyspiritpreschool.org or email preschool@hslckirkland.org with specific questions.

Common Hope Vision Team Brings Back Experiences from Guatemala - rescheduled again

On Sunday evening, March 20th from 6:00-7:30 pm, the individuals from our Holy Spirit community will share their experiences from their trip to Guatemala in February 2020 to assist Common Hope. This event was rescheduled from February.

Common Hope works to end the cycle of poverty for children in Guatemala through a holistic, relationship-based model. While education is at the heart of their work, they believe a comprehensive approach is critical for children and families to reach their full potential. Holy Spirit’s team was completely immersed in these activities, including building a home for a family, filling food bags, visiting families with social workers, and interacting with students and Common Hope staff.

In addition to the country’s beautiful landscapes, we encountered a people who find joy in life’s simple pleasures. More than half of Guatemalans live below the poverty line and 25% live in extreme poverty earning less than $2/day. There is limited access to health care and major causes of death still include treatable illnesses and diseases. Holy Spirit’s travellers observed inadequate housing conditions, homes without roofs or sufficient living space, crafted from scrap metal and dirt floors, and without potable water or sanitation systems.

A group will be going to Guatemala again in February of 2023. If you may be interested in joining, the program on March 20th is an opportunity to learn more about Common Hope and hear first-hand from individuals who visited Guatemala in February 2020.

For more information, contact Doug Jacobson at ddjacobson@frontier.com.

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Note that the fiscal year is 7/1/21-6/30/22.
Nix's Free Pantry
You may have noticed the pink storage cabinet near the bus stop along NE 124th Street. Holy Spirit was contacted and asked if a “Free Pantry” could be located on our property. A “Free Pantry” is a program of neighbors helping neighbors in need with food, hygiene, or paper items. They provide people with 24/7, zero barrier access. The “Free Pantry” is managed by a neighbor pantry host, who is committed to regularly stocking the cabinet.
The pantry host for this location contacted Holy Spirit asked if we would allow a “Free Pantry” to be located on our property. We answered yes and the HSLC Property Committee worked with the pantry host and helped install the storage cabinet.
If you would be interested in assisting with this effort by donating food, hygiene or paper products, please contact the Pantry Host at Nixspantry@gmail.com. There is also a Facebook group called “Nix’s Pantry” where updates and a needs list are posted.

Lent in a Bag
Pick-up Sun., Feb. 27th all morning or Weds., March 2nd 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Lent begins each year on Ash Wednesday. As we begin our Lenten journey, we would love for you to join our Lent in a Bag practice. Each family will assemble their own bag this year. Each bag has a devotion, item, activity, and soup recipe for Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday. You are encouraged to set up a space at home for your weekly reflection time. Please consider a platter or bowl with some sand and a battery-operated candle or real candle. Each week, there’ll be something in the bag that you can add to your space that represents the reading for that day. Please sign-up for Lent in a Bag at https://www.hslckirkland.org/lent-rsvp so we have enough supplies. If you have questions, please contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.

Lenten Morning Meditation
Saturday, March 5th | 10:00 am
You are invited to join members of the Contemplative Prayer Group on Saturday, March 5th at 10 am in the sanctuary for a service of prayer, song, silent meditation, and Lectio Divina. All are welcome. No experience with meditation is needed. If you plan to attend, please e-mail Christina Brugman at cebrug@gmail.com so we can set up a chair for you.

Parents' Afternoon Out
Saturday, March 19th | 4:00 – 7:00 pm
Looking for some child-free time to finish a project? Want to spend time with a loved one without interruption? Bring your children (ages 5-10) to Parents' Afternoon Out where they will play games, do crafts, and participate in a variety of activities. We will also feed your child a light dinner at 6 pm. This is a fundraiser for our 7th and 8th grade summer mission trips. The cost is $20 for 1 child and $10 for each additional child in the same household. Scholarships available. RSVP is required. Questions? Contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.

Communion Connections
Sunday, March 27th | 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Join us for this communion preparation event which engages children and parents in the awesome topic of Holy Communion! We'll explore Holy Communion through story, video, and other activities. Please register by signing up online at https://www.hslckirkland.org/communion-class. Although this class is designed for 3rd graders, all families with children in 4th-6th grade who haven’t attended are welcome. All children will be recognized on Thursday, April 14th during the 7 pm worship service. If you have questions, please contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.
March in the Holy Spirit Library

The library has more than one focus this month. Not only is it time for Lent and Easter devotional/spiritual reading, but we also have books specially recommended by two HSLC staff members as their favorites of 2021, described in their own words:

Pastor Katy's favorite book of 2021:

*The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V. E. Schwab

> As a young girl during the French Revolution, Addie makes a deal with a malevolent spirit – the devil, maybe? – that means she will live forever, but no one will remember her. For three hundred years, she makes her way through the world without being loved or known by anyone. Was it worth it? When she encounters someone who actually does remember her, everything changes. I loved the way this book confronts questions of meaning, love, and relationship.

And two recommendations from Becky Cole:

*How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith

> So much of our history has been written and told incompletely. The history of slavery in the United States has not been completely told. We continue to live with the slavery of inequality as seen by our siblings of color. Each chapter is a different place that holds a part of the slavery story – Monticello Plantation, Angola Prison, Whitney Plantation, Blandford Cemetery, New York City, and more. As I read this book, I realized how much I didn't know about the history of slavery, which is a huge part of the story of our country. When I finished this book, I wanted to find the next book to read to continue to learn more about the history of the United States and correct the things I learned that weren't correct.

*I Am One: A Book of Action* by Susan Verde

> This book is so great for everyone – and written for kids! It talks about one seed, one ripple, one small thing can make a difference. The illustrations are colorful and engaging. The text and pictures invite adults and children to be creative in their reflections of the book. This book is definitely one to add to your library!

Thanks so much, Becky and Pastor Katy, for sharing these books with us!

These recommended books, as well as the Lent/Easter books, will be displayed upstairs in the narthex/lobby and downstairs in the library. Stop by and take a look, and happy reading!

Support for *Health Through Housing*

As part of its *Health Through Housing* program, King County is considering the purchase of La Quinta Inn in Kirkland. This initiative provides permanent supportive housing for those experiencing homelessness and is consistent with Kirkland's longstanding commitment to housing equity. Tenants will have connections to health and behavioral health treatment and services, 24/7 on-site staffing, as well as a case manager to help navigate community systems. Studies show these elements create a solid base to begin to rebuild lives.

As a congregation, Holy Spirit also has a longstanding commitment to the dignity and support of those who do not have a safe place to live. As God calls us to reflect the compassionate, challenging, inclusive love we meet in Jesus, the congregation council affirmed a letter of support for this project and sent that letter to city, county, and state leaders. If you are a resident of Kirkland, we encourage you to speak and act in favor of this project, which is one practical, real-life way that we can love our neighbors as ourselves. Visit www.hslckirkland.org to read the council’s letter and find contact information for local leaders.
Masks required for all over 2 years of age

Childcare available at 9:30 am and 11:00 am

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Easter Worship—Sunday, April 17
- Good Friday Worship—April 15 at 7 pm
- Maundy Thursday Worship—April 14 at 7 pm
- Palm Sunday Worship—April 10

Holy Week
- March 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, Apr 6th, 13th at 7 pm

Lenten Worship on Wednesdays
- Worship at noon and 7 pm
- Ash Wednesday—March 2

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Online Worship continues

Worship on Sundays - 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 AM