



# CONGREGATION LISTENING POST Resources for March, 2020

## The Gift of Listening

Listening is a gift we give each other.

## The Path towards Healing includes:

- Others: Someone who listens to my story and offers support
- Hope: Expectation of a positive future
- Meaning: That which gives purpose to life

## Prayers

**Opening**      May we be blessed with the three-fold gift of others, hope, and meaning. *Take a deep breath.*  
Let distractions be put aside.      *Take a deep breath. (Silence)*  
Let us be present to this moment.      *Take a deep breath. (Silence)*  
Let us be open to listening.

### **Litany: An Invitation to Turning** *(adapted from the Jewish Selichot Service)*

**Leader:**      Creator of all, be gracious to us; our cup of sorrows is full: behold us with compassion.  
Remember how we are made, remember that we are dust.

**All:**      **We pray for compassion and plead for grace. O God our Help, favor us and grant us peace.**

**Leader:**      Our God above, grant us your blessings. Let peace reign among us and on earth.

**All:**      **God help us to care about wrongs from which we have been spared, to seek forgiveness for the wrongs we do; to forgive the wrongs that are done to us.**

**Leader:**      Create in us a clean heart, and place a willing spirit within us.

**All:**      **Shed your light upon us, O God, that we may see the goodness in each of your children.**

**Leader:**      For we have sinned against life by failing to work for peace.

**All:**      **We have sinned against life by keeping silent in the face of injustice.**

**Leader:**      For we have sinned against life by ignoring those who suffer.

**All:**      **We have sinned against life by forgetting those in need in our own midst.**

**Leader:**      Sovereign God, whose throne is mercy. You guide the world with steadfast love, forgiving the transgressions of your people; You pardon all who sin, are generous with all who live, treating them with compassion.

**All:**      **May the source of strength, who blessed the ones before us, help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing and let us say, Amen.**

### **Blessing:**

As we prepare to leave this place, remember,  
Each of us has a story to tell.  
Each of us can listen to another person.  
Each of us can be a candle of hope.  
Let peace begin with each of us.

May the source of strength who blessed the ones before us,  
help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing  
and let us say, Amen.



# LISTENING POST RESOURCES



## Personal Listening Post

During the month of March, make a personal commitment to become a personal listening post

**Checklist:** Today, how shall I listen to?

- ✓ Those near me
- ✓ My neighbor
- ✓ Someone different from me

## Weekly Gatherings

Each week, meet with others and read a psalm. Select key phrases to ponder. Know that others throughout Greater Baton Rouge area are pondering the same passage.

March 1:	Psalm 32
March 8:	Psalm 121
March 15:	Psalm 23
March 22:	Psalm 95
March 29:	Psalm 130



## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Sounds of CommUNITY Concert

Sunday, March 29, 2020, 4 pm  
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church  
185 Eddie Robinson Drive. Baton Rouge

\*\*\*\*\*

*"We can't find the truth listening  
to our own voices echo.  
We can find ourselves  
only in someone's mirror." –Rumi*

## 2020 Lent Series: Listen!

*Readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary*

### March 1 First Sunday in Lent

**Reading: Matthew 4:11-11**

Lent traditionally begins with the reading of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness. Jesus faced three tests which might draw him away from God. In life, we too face many tests.

*Question: "To whom are we listening?"*

### March 8 Second Sunday in Lent

**Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a**

Abram was called by God to go from his country to a new land. "So Abram went." He left that which was familiar as he responded to God's call.

*Question: "When it comes to listening, how might we be more open like Abram?"*

### March 15 Third Sunday in Lent

**Reading: John 4:5-42**

Jesus defied culture and tradition by interacting with the Samaritan woman at the well. Time and time again, Jesus modeled how to listen to someone different from him.

*Question: What are the benefits to listening to someone different from us—for us and them?*

### March 22 Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Reading: John 9:1-41**

Jesus healed a man blind from birth on the Sabbath. This healing caused quite a controversy and stirred much conflict.

*Question: "In the midst of conflict, what might help us to continue to be open to listening to the "other"?"*

### March 29 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jesus wept. His friend Lazarus had died. That's not the end of the story, but it is powerful to hear of Jesus sharing this very human moment with Mary, Martha and the other mourners.

*Question: What does it mean to accompany others through sorrow and at the same time listen to our own grief?*

**Holy Week:** How are we being led to listen?