

Called to Become

February 22 – April 8, 2023

God is always calling us. We are always becoming, growing, and being transformed in faith. As we journey together through Lent, we seek to hear how God is calling us now, to acknowledge what holds us back from answering, and to find space to be created anew.

February 22 – Ash Wednesday

“Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!” – Isaiah 58:1

Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

On this first day of Lent we come to lay down all that separates us from God. We lay down all that keeps us from hearing God’s call to become who God dreams us to be. We start our Lenten journey by letting go all that holds us back.

February 26 – Trusting Listeners

“the woman saw...that the tree was to be desired...she took of its fruit and ate” – Genesis 3:6

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11

We are surrounded by voices within and without telling us who we should be, how we should act, what we should do. How do we discern which voice speaks to us with God’s truth? We are easily swayed by that which seems good and possible and beneficial. Yet, living as faithful followers of God often requires deeper discernment. Thankfully, even in our imperfect listening God is with us, calling us to become more fully God’s.

March 5 – A Blessing

“I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” – Genesis 12:2

Genesis 12:1-4a; Matthew 17:1-9

Sometimes God asks more of us than we can truly imagine. The vision given to us is stunning but knowing how to respond is difficult. The dream given may feel so far away that it doesn't seem real. We may want to hold the vision and make it real right now. Even when the dream is hard to see, we are asked to follow, to listen, to react in specific ways. We are called and it will change who we become.

March 12 – Known

“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done!” – John 4:29

Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-42

We cannot become who God is calling us to be without understanding who we are now, without recognizing and admitting that God knows us fully in all our argumentative, pessimistic, imperfect glory. When we recognize that God knows us, we can start to understand God and ourselves better. For God loves us and provides for us in our imperfection and our lack of understanding. God calls us in those moments and gives us hope and possibility.

March 19 – Challenged

“Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord” – Ephesians 5:10

Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Part of how we understand ourselves is the opinions we hold. We identify ourselves by our truths. Are we willing to hear and be changed by the truths of others? Sometimes our call from God challenges us in ways we don't want to admit, ways that don't make any sense to us. God is calling us to be transformed by the stories of others.

March 26 – Hope-full

“Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, you know.’” – Ezekiel 37:3

Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45

Our Lenten journey is leading us to life, but it is not a straight and easy path. Many things can happen to stall us on our journey, to make us feel life has turned to death, hope into despair. But in those moments, God speaks to our bones; Jesus calls us out. God is with us in the worst of our loss, grieving with us and then opening us to the possibilities that remain.

April 2 – Emptied

“if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” – Matt 26:39

Matthew 21: 1-11, 26:14-27:66 (selections)

Our journey may take us to places we never wanted to go, never imagined we would go. There is deep loss. We grieve all that is no longer ours, the future dream that has dissipated, the relationships changed and disrupted. But, even here, God is with us, sharing our tears as we come to the foot of the cross.

April 6 – Maundy Thursday

“he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them” – Mark 14:22

We have listened for our call. We have opened ourselves to understand who we are in God. On this night we bring our hopes and our sorrows. We share in community and find ourselves alone in silence as we walk the final steps of his earthly journey with our Savior.