

Listening Resource

A resource to help members listen to God as they consider the forthcoming elections for roles in the new triennium; whether God is calling them to stand and who they should vote for.

Time to be still

Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.
¹⁰ The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'
1 Samuel 3:9-10

It was when Samuel was in a place of rest that God spoke to him. At the beginning of our time together let us take a moment to draw aside from the busyness of life and rest in God's presence.

**Almighty Lord,
we thank you that we can
dwell in your presence
through the love of Christ.**

Speak to us, Lord,
as we draw near to you.
Still our restless thoughts
and calm our active minds.

Quieten our spirits
to hear your gentle voice.
Open our ears to listen well;
open our hearts to sense your will.

Give us your grace to heed your words
and follow where you lead.
Speak to us, Lord,
for your servants are listening.

**Almighty Lord,
we thank you that you speak to us
as we are united in prayer.
Amen**

Time to celebrate

We are many parts of one body,
and we all belong to each other.
In his grace, God has given us different gifts
for doing certain things well.
Romans 12:5-6

It is always good to celebrate what has been achieved together, through the grace of God. Take a few moments to remember and share highlights of the triennium.

This may be prepared beforehand.

Let us thank God for each other's gifts and work, used in his service.

May this give us confidence in God's continued provision as we listen to hear his plans for our future.

**We celebrate each other's gifts from God.
May our appreciation of them
bring praise to the Giver.**

With thanks we celebrate each other's gifts
and their significance to our lives.

We praise God for those whose skills meet a need;
those whose creativity enriches us;
those who impart compassion and hope.

As the body of Christ, we rejoice to combine our gifts;
our own enhanced through unity with another's.
We delight in working together for the kingdom of God.

**How lavish is our God!
We celebrate your generosity to us
with thankful hearts.
Amen**

[Time to listen to God through his Word](#)

*Isaiah 40:27-31 or Mark 6:34-44 or another passage you feel may be appropriate
for your particular setting*

One person reads the passage out loud, slowly. Then take time to read and reflect on the passage together in silence asking God to draw our attention to words that he wants to highlight and use to speak to us. If time allows these may be shared together so we are united in listening to each other and to God.

[Time to listen to God through prayer](#)

Take a few minutes to pray and reflect in silence as individuals, asking God to continue to speak and guide our thoughts as we look to respond to his leading.
You may wish to play music quietly in the background

[Time to give thanks](#)

**Lord, thank you for your words of life
which challenge and inspire us.
Thank you for speaking to us today.
Lead us forward in your will.
Amen**