

September 12, 2021 16th Sunday after Pentecost
 Riverside Innovation Hub Team-Dialogue
 University Lutheran Church of Hope

Proverbs 1:20-21, Isaiah 50:4
 Wisdom of Solomon 1:27-28, Psalm 116:1-9
 Mark 8:27-38

A Reading in Four Voices
Woven from Proverbs, Wisdom of Solomon, Isaiah, and Psalm 116

Sung Refrain: Listen, listen. Be open, O my heart.

VOICE 1: Proverbs 1:20-21

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.
 At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks.

VOICE 2: Wisdom of Solomon 7:26-28

For she is a reflection of eternal light,
 a spotless mirror of the working of God,
 and an image of God's goodness.

Although she is but one, she can do all things,
 and while remaining in herself, she renews all things;
 in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets;
 for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom.

Sung Refrain: Listen, listen. Be open, O my heart.

VOICE 1: Proverbs 1:20-21

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.
 At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks.

VOICE 3: Isaiah 50:4

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,
 that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
 Morning by morning God wakens -- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

Sung Refrain: Listen, listen. Be open, O my heart.

VOICE 1: Proverbs 1:20-21

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.
 At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks.

VOICE 4: Psalm 116

¹I love the Lord, who has ^l heard my voice,
 and listened to my ^l supplication,

²for the Lord has given ^l ear to me
 whenever ^l er I called.

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave ^l came upon me;
 I came to ^l grief and sorrow.

⁴Then I called upon the name ^l of the Lord:

“O Lord, I pray you, ¹ save my life.”

⁵Gracious is the ¹ Lord and righteous;
our God is full ¹ of compassion.

⁶The Lord watches o- ¹ ver the innocent;
I was brought low, ¹ and God saved me.

⁷Turn again to your rest, ¹ O my soul.
for the Lord has dealt ¹ well with you.

⁸For you have rescued my ¹ life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my ¹ feet from stumbling;

⁹I will walk in the presence ¹ of the Lord
in the land ¹ of the living.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

(NOTE: this is the dialogue sermon shared on 9/12/21. Much of this represents notes, fragments of what this team spoke about, cues for their sharing. See the live stream on YouTube to hear it in full.)

Jen: **Grace and peace to you,**
listening ears and opening hearts, beloved of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Today our preaching is offered in dialogue,

our proclamation is led by a team, the Riverside Innovation Hub Team.

We'll share more of what this team does in the midst of the sermon.

To start I want to introduce them:

Beth Kautz, Dan Bielenberg, Doug Hartmann, and Kirsten Mebust.

This team was led by Nick Tangen.

Abby Lucas and also Will Heller were both involved.

I'm grateful for this dialogue we share today, and have found the preparation quite moving.

Even as we share this dialogue sermon, the weight of this day is important.

It's the day after the 20 year anniversary of the September 11th attacks.

I was taken this last week by the collective and personal remembering that is happening

This milestone anniversary at this particular time in history,

offered a pause, a space for reflection,

a time for grief, for acknowledgement, for loss, for honor

when this can be hard to come by.

I'm also mindful of how today is our first day back in-person in the sanctuary,

A watershed for our congregation, if ever there was one.

Students are back on campus, Dinkytown is bustling,

And COVID is still real, and with it more grief and loss and change.

As we return to greater activity here at Hope,

today we focus on proximity.

We remind ourselves where God has planted us.

We have the opportunity to pay attention to God's voice, God's call right where we are.

Jen: **So, to start as you read and heard the scripture, what was bubbling up?**

What did you hear and notice?

Doug: The gospel text, and that question: Where is Jesus in Dinkytown?

Beth: Teacher talk in Isaiah, listening and sustaining the weary.

Dan: Readings highlighted God at work outside, everywhere in the world, crying from the street corners, working in people's hearts.

Kirsten: Wisdom...pointing to wisdom... call and invite and listen.

Also: Jesus and Disciples walk to Great religious diversity.

In asking the questions.... Jesus is asking them to pay attention to others, those different than those with whom they usually hang ... Jesus is going to learn something about himself.

Jen: Beth, can you take us back and share more of the background of this project?

Beth: 2015 and RIH, our name.

2015 new apartments across the street, self study, pastoral call, idea of porous walls, what could we do in the neighborhood?

Name: What does it mean to have University in our name? We want to stay here, what does it mean to be here and to have University in our name?

Riverside Innovation Hub with funding. Grant through Lilly Foundation.

20 other congregations doing their own versions of listening.

Jen: Thanks, Beth. So, tell us some stories. What did you hear in that listening?

Kirsten: Story about Preus 1957-1973

Doug: We used one to ones, intentional conversations (including to many of you).

Events, food, give away. Loring Pasta Bar....

Kirsten: Story about Dan/Students/Listening

Dan: Podcasts, taking one on ones to a broader audience

Jen: And then came COVID and everything changed.

A lot has changed in the world, in our congregation, and a lot has changed in the neighborhood.

Beth: 18 months, McD on 15th and the Irv's Liquor Store, Wilderness Inquiry on 8th and 15th, Post Office on 4th.

Text messages: alerts to safety and shootings, my response

Dan: We had plans, canceled.

Funds, gift cards, porta potty, ideas based on listening. this isn't done...

Jen: So where does this take us?

Kirsten: Gospel: who do THEY say that I am? Who do YOU say that I am?

Jesus teaches them the direction to go, to the cross.

Who do WE say that Jesus is?

And what direction are we going?

Doug: This helps us to understand not only the radical vision of the gospel, but a different understanding of being the church, and of outreach.

Dan: Gospel is disruption, happened to the disciples, happens to us, examples... stories to port a potty, gift cards

Approach proclamation with great humility

We've thought of outreach as... but outreach as listening.

Proclamation that we need to listen, and be changed. Internal transformation.

Be a church full of people who really are listeners, willing to be changed.

Kirsten: Neighborhood has expectations of us, resilience, sustainus, sustaining to participate in the process of change.

Beth: Wisdom is out there on the corner, part of what we do is look for Her as we look for Jesus in Dinkytown.

Invitation for you: when you are in the neighborhood, listen.

Think of this space as a place where wisdom is calling.

Walk in the neighborhood, listen, eat.

Dan: Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.

At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks.