

From: **St. Francis Episcopal Church** vicar@stfrancisva.org
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St Francis



March 29, 2017

Ears To Hear

... the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

John 10:4

Following Jesus

This phrase from Jesus which we see in today's readings for Morning Prayer shows how to gain the capacity to follow Jesus. It is to know his voice. It is probably not too much to say that we cannot follow Jesus if we do not know his voice. The up side of all of this is that we can know, hear, and follow the voice of Jesus. It calls for some listening and focusing on the presence of the Spirit of God. It calls for taking up the method that works for you such as silence, or writing, or walking, or fasting, or reading and waiting, etc. The more we reach out to Jesus the more we will come to know his voice.

Two Ways of Making Room

In addition to the proactive ways of getting to know the voice of Jesus there are some ways we need to adopt that will clear our our souls and make room for the voice of Jesus to take its place in our lives. One way is to recognize any idols you may be worshiping. An idol is anything to which you give allegiance other than Jesus. Does anything come to mind? Ask God for the power to give it up. A second way is to not let your emotions overtake your life. Our emotions are important. However, they are a part of our life and not meant to take over our lives. One thing that can become an emotional response is to keep busy all the time. It can hide our anxieties. Our anxieties can dampen our ability to hear and know the voice of Jesus. Ask God for peace so that you can hear the voice of Jesus. I have taken these ideas from Cath Livesey's wonderful book [My Sheep Have Ears: Exploring Prophecy within Discipleship and Mission](#). I highly recommend it to you for more encouragement and help in hearing the voice of Jesus.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, April 2, 2017 Worship at 10:00am

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 Color Me Friends at 6:30pm. Contact Carol at carolsdream@gmail.com

Sunday April 9, 2017 Palm Sunday worship at 10:00am

Holy Week Services:

April 13, 2017 Maundy Thursday service 6:15pm

April 14, 2017 Good Friday service at 6:15pm

April 16, 2017 Easter Day service at 10:00am

Caritas is changing for St. Francis. We will provide lunch for April 7th. If you wish to donate funds or bake/buy cookies or snacks please be in touch with Jenna Nelson jneslon561@gmail.com; Janice Nelson jlrrn2610@comcast.net; or Evelyn Staples erstaples@yahoo.com. The Caritas team (Jenna, Janice, and Evelyn) will be preparing the bag lunches

Please bring non perishable food to worship to be distributed to the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Capital Tristate, Stephen Sanders, manger, that many businesses would be well supported by this branch.

Diocese of Virginia

For the diocesan staff to have energy, wisdom, and direction from the Spirit of God.

Grace and peace,

John Maher

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