

**Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,**  
**ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY**  
14 January Second Sunday after Epiphany

**HYMNS:** 507 39 336 221

**INTROIT:** Psalm 139:1-10, 14

O LORD, You have searched me and known me.

You Yourself know when I sit down and when I rise. You have understood my thoughts from far away.

You have been measuring up my path and my lying down and been familiar with all my ways.

For before there is any statement on my tongue, look! O LORD, You know it completely.

You have encircled me behind and in front and laid Your hand on me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is unattainable. I cannot reach it.

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

If I climb up into heaven, You are there. If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there.

If I lift up the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will hold me fast.

I praise You, because I have been fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and my soul knows that very well.

**COLLECT:** Almighty and everlasting God, because You govern all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people, and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:** 1 Samuel 3:1-20 The LORD reveals Himself to Samuel.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

John 1:43-51 We have found the Messiah.

*Welcome to all worshipping with us!*

Pastor Ziebell can be contacted via phone/text at 0407 583922.

Email him at [paziebell@gmail.com](mailto:paziebell@gmail.com) or to the church office at [ddaelc@gmail.com](mailto:ddaelc@gmail.com).

Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

Pastor is usually in his office Tuesday-Wednesday for anyone who would like to call in. Other days of the week are set aside for visits.

## 1 Samuel 3:1-20

<sup>1</sup> The boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The Word of the LORD was rare in those days. Visions were infrequent. <sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, was lying down in his own place.

<sup>3</sup> The lamp of God had not yet gone out and Samuel was lying down in the Temple of the LORD, where the Ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am."

<sup>5</sup> He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. For you have called me." However, Eli said, "I have not called you. Go back and lie down!"

So, Samuel went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am. For you have called me." Eli answered: "I have not called you, my son. Go back and lie down!"

<sup>7</sup> Samuel did not yet know the LORD and the Word of the LORD was not yet being revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> Then the LORD called Samuel again, a third time. Samuel got up and went to Eli and said: "Here I am. For you have called me."

Then Eli realised that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> Therefore, Eli told Samuel: "Go and lie down! If He calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening!'"

So, Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup> Then the LORD came, stood there and called as He had called at the other times: "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel answered, "Speak! For Your servant is listening."

<sup>11</sup> Then the LORD told Samuel: "Look! I am about to do something in Israel and the two ears of everyone who hears about it will tingle. <sup>12</sup> On that day, I shall carry out against Eli everything I have spoken about his family, from the beginning to the end. <sup>13</sup> I have told him that I shall condemn his family for ever for the guilt about which he has known. For, although his sons were calling a curse down on themselves, he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup> This is why I have sworn concerning Eli's family that no sacrifice or offering will certainly ever atone for the guilt of Eli's family."

<sup>15</sup> Samuel lay down until the morning. Then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. However, Samuel was afraid to tell Eli about the vision. <sup>16</sup> Then Eli summoned Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son!" Samuel answered, "Here I am."

<sup>17</sup> Eli asked: "What is the Message that He has told you? Please, do not hide it from me! May God treat you harshly and even worse if you hide anything from me out of the Message that He has spoken to you!"

<sup>18</sup> So, Samuel told him everything and did not hide anything from him. Eli answered: "He is the LORD. Let Him do what He thinks is right!"

<sup>19</sup> As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and He did not let any of His Words remain unfulfilled.

<sup>20</sup> All Israel from Dan to Beer-Sheba knew that Samuel was a reliable prophet of the LORD.

### 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

<sup>12</sup> “All things are permissible for me” — but not all things are beneficial. “All things are permissible for me” — but I shall not be brought under anyone’s control.

<sup>13</sup> “Foods are for the stomach and the stomach is for foods” - but God will put an end to both it and them. The body is not for sexual sin but for the Lord and the Lord is for the body. <sup>14</sup> God has both raised the Lord and will also raise us by His power.

<sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them the members of a prostitute? Certainly not! <sup>16</sup> Or do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one body with her? For God says: “**The two will become one flesh.**” <sup>17</sup> However, he who is

united with the Lord is one spirit with Him. <sup>18</sup> Flee from sexual sin! Every other sin that a person commits is outside the body. However, the person who sins sexually sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you have been bought at a price. Therefore, glorify God with your bodies!

### John 1:43-51

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip. Jesus told him, “Follow Me!”

<sup>44</sup> Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the One about whom Moses wrote in the Law and about whom the prophets also wrote — Jesus, Joseph’s son from Nazareth.”

<sup>46</sup> Nathanael asked him, “Nazareth — can anything good come from there?” Philip told him, “Come and see!”

<sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him. He said about him, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is no deceit.”

<sup>48</sup> Nathanael asked Him, “Where did You get to know me?”

Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

<sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel.”

<sup>50</sup> Jesus answered him, “You believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.”

<sup>51</sup> Then He told him, “Truly, truly, I tell you, you will see **heaven** opened and **the angels of God going up and coming down** on the Son of Man.”

**JESUS FIND US**  
**Sermon for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany, 2024**  
**John 1:43-51**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is our Gospel from before, John 1:43-51

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

Early in His ministry, Jesus gathered together disciples. Today, we see Him calling Philip and Nathanael to become disciples.

So, our story today begins with Jesus finding Philip. **“The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip. Jesus told him, “Follow Me!”** The first thing we notice is that *Jesus finds Philip*. Philip was not out looking for Jesus. It is the same for us. Even when we were not looking for Jesus, *He seeks us out*. Luke writes how *“the Son of Man has come to search for and to save what has been lost”* (19:10). That’s where we were - lost, wandering aimlessly, not looking for God, but Jesus came and sought us out. He found us and brought His gospel to us, and placed His call on our lives.

Jesus calls us, even as He called Philip. **“Follow me!”** He says to each one of us. *“Follow Me. Be My disciples and learn from Me. Grow in your knowledge and faith.”* Jesus calls us to keep on following Him in a lifelong journey of faith. He leads every step of the way, all the days of our life. As we hear the authority in His voice and note the personal concern He has for each one of us, Jesus is calling us to be His disciples. How can we say no? He is speaking to us today.

So Jesus finds Philip and calls him to follow. Now, what does Philip do? How does he respond? **“Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the One about whom Moses wrote in the Law and about whom the prophets also wrote.”**

The first thing Philip does is to find Nathanael and tell him what happened. Notice that Jesus finds Philip, and then Philip finds Nathanael. And so it goes. Our Lord uses us as His instruments to invite others so that they can hear His call to faith and discipleship. Like Philip, Jesus has found you and called you to follow Him. That’s wonderful! That’s life-changing! That is the most important thing in your life. In fact, it is your life! Jesus finding you and saving you and leading you day by day, all the way into eternal life - this is what life is all about. And what’s more, this new life doesn’t stop with you. Your changed life, your

verbal witness, your faith evident in your life - *this becomes a witness to others*. You, too, will be a Philip, “filled up” with the joy and excitement that comes from knowing the Lord. When you know the Lord, it affects the way you speak, act, and live.

That’s how it was for Philip. He went and found someone he could share his joy with. He found Nathanael, presumably someone he knew or had some kind of relationship with. Excitedly, he tells Nathanael, “**We have found the One about whom Moses wrote in the Law and about whom the prophets also wrote.**” In other words, Philip is telling Nathanael, “*We have found the Messiah.*” The Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One - the promised Deliverer prophesied in the Scriptures, the One who will fulfil all the promises God made to our fathers: Guess what, Nathanael? We have found Him! We’ve met Him! The Messiah has come!

Notice, by the way, Philip says, “**We have found the One,**” even though, in reality, it’s the other way around. It was Jesus who found Philip! But that’s okay because it’s really saying the same thing. From Philip’s perspective, this was a great discovery, and in his excitement, he expresses it the best way he knows how: “**We have found the One, the Messiah.**”

How about you? Do you have the excitement and joy of a Philip? Maybe the excitement has worn off. Think of it this way: ***Think of where you would be without Jesus.*** You would be lost and helpless and hopeless, headed to hell. You would have no meaning, no purpose in life. You would have no hope to sustain you. You would be blind and dead in your sins and an enemy of God – that is your natural state. That is your starting point, and it is a dead end.

But now pause and consider where you are *because of Jesus*. All of your sins are forgiven. You are a dear child of your heavenly Father. You know what life is all about. You have a sure hope to carry you through all the trials and afflictions of this life. You have the word of God as your anchor and stay. You are headed toward heaven and eternal life with your Lord and with all His saints.

Dear friends, this is surely good news! This is as good as it gets! If anything will put some excitement and joy into your life, this will. I can’t think of anything better. So, yes, you do have something to tell others about, something absolutely exciting and joyful!

What have you found that you can tell others about? Or to put it another way: Whom have you found? “*I have found my Saviour, and He’s your Saviour too. I have found the One who forgives my sins. The One who died for me and rose again, that I may live. The One who gives me eternal life as a free gift. Let me*

*tell you about Him. He puts me right with God. He gives me meaning and purpose and hope in life. He is the Way and the Truth and the Life for everyone, including you.”* When you tell others about Jesus, you don’t have to dump the whole load in the first conversation, but you can at least say something, just like Philip did when he basically told Nathanael: *“We have found Him, the One who makes all the difference in life.”*

Then Philip identifies this Messiah by name, **“Jesus, Joseph’s son from Nazareth.”** But notice Nathanael’s response: **“Nazareth — can anything good come from there?”** Apparently, Nathanael, as one well-versed in the Scriptures, knew that there was no particular prophecy linking the Messiah to the city of Nazareth. Beyond that, Nazareth may have carried some negative baggage for Nathanael. Maybe he didn’t think very highly of that town, we don’t know. But it does seem clear that the mention of Nazareth was an initial obstacle in Nathanael’s mind.

**“Nazareth — can anything good come from there?”** You, likewise, may encounter objections when you start to tell someone about Jesus. You may meet resistance when you tell others that you have found Jesus and His gifts present in our church. People may say: *“Your church? Where’s that? Never heard of it.”* “Or *“Lutheran”? What’s that?”* *“Church? No thanks. I don’t believe in organised religion.”* See, these are the modern version of **“Nazareth — can anything good come from there?”** *“Can anything good come out of your church?”* People will raise objections, and quite often, it’s because they want to keep God’s Word at arm’s length.

Be prepared for that, but then be pleasantly persistent. Notice Philip’s reply to the problem that Nathanael has with Nazareth. He simply says, **“Come and see!”** That’s it. Just short and sweet, **“Come and see!”** Philip doesn’t engage Nathanael in a prolonged argument about the merits of Nazareth. He doesn’t get sidetracked. He’s just pleasantly persistent, inviting Nathanael to find out for himself. **“Come and see!”** *“Come and see if you too want to encounter the Messiah, the Saviour sent from God, in this person Jesus I want you to meet.”*

So it is for us in our witness. Now, of course, there are many things about our congregation we can talk about, such as positive things and the various aspects of our life together: the fellowship, the friendliness of our members, and the friendships we enjoy. Those are all good, and we should talk about them. But ultimately, above all, when we talk about our church, we want to talk about the One who is the very heart and centre of our church, the church’s whole reason for existence. And that’s Jesus. We want to point people to Jesus. The fact that people will meet Jesus here - that is what this church is all about. That’s why we

invite people. We can cut through a lot of the fog and smokescreens and side issues when we point people to Jesus and invite them to meet Him here at our church, because this is where He has promised to be present. This is where He can be found. The Lord Jesus Christ is here in His church, where His gospel is preached, His Word is taught, and His life-giving sacraments are administered. This is where people will meet Jesus, their Saviour, the author of life and the giver of salvation. So don't be afraid or ashamed to invite your friends and neighbours, your family members - anyone who needs Jesus - invite them to **"come and see!"**

Well, Nathanael's initial objection is overcome by Philip's pleasant persistence and his clear invitation. Nathanael does come and he does see. In fact, Jesus sees Nathanael approaching and he says, **"Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is no deceit."** Nathanael asked Him, **"Where did You get to know me?"** Nathanael can tell that this Jesus somehow knows something about him, that He has divine insight. **Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."** This manifestation of divine knowledge sparks something in Nathanael. Jesus is quickening faith in his heart. Nathanael declares, **"Rabbi, You are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel."**

Nathanael confesses something here that was even more than he may have known at the time. Jesus is the very Son of God, come in the flesh. As the Son of God, He is the only One able to save us from our lost condition. As a man in the flesh, Jesus takes our place, both in keeping God's Law and in taking the Law's punishment on sinners. Jesus died on the cross as our Substitute, taking our sin and death on Himself, thus opening heaven and eternal life to us. And so Jesus is not only the King of Israel but also the King who ushers in the everlasting kingdom of heaven in our midst.

**"You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel."** Jesus replies: **"You believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that."** Jesus here is telling Nathanael that he will see the divine power and blessing of God displayed in Jesus' ministry time and time again - not just that Jesus could see him under a fig tree - but that Jesus can heal the blind and the deaf, cleanse lepers, forgive sins, and even raise the dead. Those are the great things that Nathanael will see in Jesus' ministry.

**"Truly, truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God going up and coming down on the Son of Man."** In Christ, the kingdom of heaven comes down to earth. Heaven and earth meet in Him. And this business about the angels of God ascending and descending? This recalls the story of Jacob's ladder. Remember that? Jacob had a dream about a ladder running

between heaven and earth where “*he saw the angels of God going up and coming down on it*” (Genesis 28:12). Jacob called that place Bethel, the “house of God,” the gate of heaven. Well, that’s what happens now in Jesus. He opens up heaven for us. Jesus’ cross is our Jacob’s ladder. By His death on the cross, Jesus bridges the gap between us and God. Christ came down from heaven for us men and for our salvation. By His being lifted up on the cross, He raises us up from the depths of sin and death, and by His resurrection from the dead and ascension into heaven, He guarantees our own resurrection and eternal life in heaven. The cross of Christ is our Jacob’s ladder.

And so the church then is our Bethel, the house of God where we find Christ, where heaven is opened to us. Heaven and earth meet here in God’s house, because Christ is present here. Indeed, in the Sacrament of the Altar, heaven and earth come together. Here we receive a foretaste of the feast to come. “*Wide open stand the gates!*”

Dear friends, Jesus is here, present in our midst. He is here to open heaven for us. And at the same time, our Lord calls us to follow him in faith. “**Follow Me!**” He says to each one of us. So we follow as He guides us out into the highways and byways of life, where we shall find people for us to talk to - where we shall find our own Nathanaels. Yes, the Lord just may use our mouth to do the inviting! That’s how it went with Philip and Nathanael. Same thing today. Invite the people you know - your friends and neighbours and your family members - invite them to come and see, and when they come, what they will find here is Jesus giving out His gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

#### PRAYER FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given the light of Your truth in Jesus Christ that we may be rescued from the darkness of sin and unbelief, and have life in His name. We thank You that You have made us alive through faith in Him, and lavished on us so many gifts of Your grace. Grant that we may treasure in our hearts the truth that Jesus, Your unique Son, is our revealer of Your will, our sacrificial Lamb, our Messiah, our King, and the Son of Man, who was rejected, crucified, and rose again for us.

Heavenly Father, make us who are Your people shining lights in this world’s darkness. Send out preachers and teachers of Your Word, that many more may know Your mercy and love in the gift of Your Son and His Gospel of grace and forgiveness. Strengthen all of us in the fellowship of Your Church to join hands in love and zeal to do the work set before us. We praise you for Your various spiritual

gifts. Grant that we may use them for the common good of the members of Christ's body. Make us loyal in serving our Lord, patient in every trouble, and joyful in our promised hope. Make us eager to hold on to what is good, to help our fellow Christians, and be ready to share with all people in need. Free us from the deceptive designs of Satan and every kind of falsehood, and give us the ability to distinguish false spirits. Grant that we who have been called out of darkness into Christ's marvellous light may in this way proclaim His saving love and power.

Bestow a special measure of Your grace on our homes.

Give stability, peace, and tranquillity to the nations of the earth. Deliver people everywhere from famine, disease, fire, flood, storm, earthquake, and every danger. In every test that You send, help all people to lift up their eyes to You, and to know Your power and care.

We ask Your mercy on all who are in any special need of body or soul. Show them the comfort of Your love; give them hope instead of despair, joy and gladness instead of grief, and a song of praise instead of sorrow.

Save us all from the dangers that surround us. Defend us, in body and soul, until that moment when we see the ascending and descending angels linking earth and heaven permanently, when You call us from this life to live in Your presence for ever. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

### **Article: Confession and Forgiveness**

Scripture distinguishes between two types of sorrow. "*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death*" (2 Corinthians 7:10). Godly sorrow expresses itself when we see our offence for what it really is: sin against God and sin against people. Worldly sorrow reveals itself when we appear sorry that we got caught or must suffer some consequence. It is often accompanied by attempts to justify, cover up sin, or accuse others.

Repentance means coming to one's senses and turning back. In the parable of the lost son who squandered his share of his father's estate, Jesus talked about this man's regret: "*When he came to his senses, he said ...*" (Luke 15:17). The son returned home to confess "*Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son*" (v. 21).

The Augsburg Confession (Article XII) defines repentance in two parts: *Properly speaking, repentance consists of these two parts: one is contrition, that is, terror smiting the conscience with a knowledge of sin, and the other is faith, which is born of the Gospel, or of absolution, believes that sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, comforts the conscience, and delivers it from terror. Then good works, which are the fruit of repentance, are bound to follow.* (3-6)

Repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret is found in confession and forgiveness. Confession of a penitent lays one bare and pitiful before God, open and thirsting for absolution. Faith receives God's forgiveness, which covers one's nakedness, providing comfort and hope, and makes him righteous in God's sight. In

response, the forgiven sinner praises God through good works.

Because we are conceived and born in sin, our most natural expression of sorrow leads to death. That which comes naturally is frequently practised throughout life. Worldly sorrow tends to be on “automatic pilot.” Thus, it becomes necessary to choose words carefully for confession of our sin as well as the announcement of God’s forgiveness and our personal forgiveness.

Even when we begin to realise our sin, our practised words of self-justification and blaming others instinctively fall from our lips. We inherit this trait from our father Adam, whose first confession typifies man’s most natural response. “Well, yes, Lord, I did eat some fruit. But it was the woman, whom, incidentally, *You* gave me, that caused me to trip up.” Eve learned from her husband’s example: “Not me! It was the serpent who tricked me into eating it!”

When we blame others, we really blame God. We call Him a liar. “*If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives*” (1 John 1:10).

In addition to examples of lousy confessions, the Bible furnishes us with beautiful confessions, such as David’s confession to Nathan (2 Samuel 12:13), and penitential psalms, such as 6, 32, 38, and 51. With fasting, sackcloth, and ashes, Daniel prayed a wonderful confession of repentance and praise for God’s mercy, a portion of which follows:

*O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with all who love Him and obey His commands, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from Your commands and laws. We have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.*

*Lord, You are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame - the men of Judah and people of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where You have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to You. O LORD, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against You. The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against Him....*

*Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against You....*

*O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For Your sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people bear Your Name. (Daniel 9:4-19)*

Both parts of repentance are expressed in this confession. Contrition for sin is clearly articulated, acknowledging sin before a holy God. Faith in a merciful and forgiving God is explicit in these words. Daniel’s prayer testifies to his trust in God by admitting sin and seeking forgiveness. Specific sins are identified, although he does not detail an exhaustive list of sins. There is no blaming God or others for sin. Daniel recognises that consequences are deserved because of Israel’s unfaithfulness to God. Praise for God and His mighty acts become part of the overall confession of sin and faith. May Daniel’s confession be a model for us to copy! As we, too, confess our many sins, let us also remember that there is complete forgiveness offered since we are made righteous through the blood of Jesus.

## Children's Message:

Have you ever been in the middle of playing when you heard someone, maybe your parents, calling you? Or what if you were cozy, sleeping in your bed, and you heard someone call out your name? You might jump right up and go see who called and what it is that they may need!

Now imagine that when you went to your mum or dad, they said, "Oh! We didn't call you!" Then it happens two more times! That would be pretty confusing, right?



Well, that's like what happened to Samuel in our First Reading today. He was a young boy, just like some of you, except he didn't live at home; he lived at the temple of the Lord. One night he was sleeping and heard, "Samuel, Samuel!" He thought that the priest Eli was calling him, but

who do you think was actually calling? Yes, it was God!

Perhaps Samuel wanted to go on sleeping. Maybe he didn't want to be bothered, or maybe he was even a little afraid of what God would say. Sometimes we may feel that way. We'd rather ignore God's Word or keep on doing whatever seems most important to us. We forget to hold His Word sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Today, Samuel is a great example of faith for us all! Do you think he kept sleeping or ignored God's call? Right! He got up and answered the Lord, "*Speak! For Your servant is listening*" (1 Sam. 3:10). Samuel knew that whatever it was God wanted to share with him was more important than sleeping, than playing, than reading. He knew that God's Word was most important of all.

God speaks to you too, right here in church! We can be like Samuel, saying, "*Speak! For Your servant is listening.*" We can pay attention to God's Word and hear what He wants to share with us. He wants to tell us the most important things! God wants to share about His Son, Jesus, who came to die for us and forgive us all of our sins. He wants to comfort us when we're sad, give us peace when we're scared, and encourage us to share that comfort and peace with everyone we know. Let's pray. *Dear Jesus, You love to speak and we love to listen. Thank You for reminding us about Samuel so we can learn. to listen to Your Word and serve You with cheerful hearts. Amen.*

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

<b>21 January 3 Epiphany</b>	<b>28 January 4 Epiphany</b>	<b>4 February 5 Epiphany</b>
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC	8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.45am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR
Sunday, 21 January		
READINGS: Jonah 3:1-5, 10;                      1 Corinthians 7:29-35;                      Mark 1:14-20		
HYMNS: 45   217   366   (839   840)   509		
Sunday, 28 January		
READINGS: Deuteronomy 18:15-20;   1 Corinthians 8:1-13;                      Mark 1:21-28		
HYMNS: 47   239   409   (789   286)   822		

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm there will be a youth group bon fire at Priebbenow’s family farm. Please contact Patrick on 0403005358 regarding more details closer to the date, if you wish to attend.

The next confirmation class for the Darling Downs congregations is set to begin in February. These classes will be held at Bethlehem Toowoomba. Parents of these children – please let pastor know which days of the week would suit so he can prepare a day and time.

The confirmation class below the Range is also set to recommence in February.

### Congregation AGM dates:

St John’s Aubigny: Sunday, January 28, 7.30pm

St Paul’s Greenwood:

Trinity Oakey:

Bethlehem Toowoomba:

Trinity Marburg:

Our Saviour Lowood: