

LENT 2026

4TH SUNDAY MARCH 15

God who sees the heart,
You sent Samuel to Bethlehem with a horn of oil and a trembling spirit.
The future of a nation resting in an ordinary visit to an ordinary family.
One by one the sons of Jesse passed by—strong, impressive, obvious choices.
But you said, Not this one.
You reminded Samuel that humans look on the outward appearance,
but you look on the heart.
And there in the fields, among sheep and dust and ordinary work,
was David—the one no one thought to call.
God, your call so often arrives this way:
unexpected, inconvenient, interrupting the routines of daily life.
You call shepherds. You call questioners.
You call people who feel too young, too ordinary, too unsure.
And still you say: Rise and anoint; this is the one.
This is the dirty work of hope—
believing that your Spirit can rest on people the world overlooks.
Believing that leadership and service do not begin with perfection
but with willingness.
God, open our eyes to the quiet callings around us.
Give us courage to volunteer our gifts, even when we feel unprepared.
Give us humility to serve where we are needed, even when the work feels small.
Help us trust that your Spirit does not wait for polished people—
but moves through ordinary lives willing to say yes.
And when we doubt that we are enough,
remind us that you do not choose as the world chooses. You see the heart.
Anoint our communities with hope. Raise up servants, leaders, helpers, dreamers.
Call forth gifts we did not know were there.
And let your Spirit rush upon us,
as it did that day in Bethlehem,
turning ordinary lives into vessels of your purpose.
In the name of the One who calls us still, Amen.

Journal Prompt – Being Called

In 1 Samuel 16:1–13, David is not even in the room when Samuel first arrives.

Yet he is the one God calls.

Reflect on your own life:

- Have you ever felt overlooked, unqualified, or the least likely person?
- Where might God be calling you to serve, volunteer, or lead anyway?
- What gifts or passions do you carry that others may not always see?
- Who in your community might be like David— whose gifts are waiting to be seen?

Write about what it might mean to say yes to God's call in this season of your life.

The work may feel small or imperfect, but it may also be exactly where hope begins.