

Listening as an act of  
Solidarity



## From Statement of Lament and Commitment to Action:

Saint Mark's Cathedral reaffirms its commitment to respect the dignity of every human being, strive for justice and peace among all people, and seek and serve Christ in all persons. We recommit our resolve to condemn the discriminatory and violent discourse and actions in our nation that target particular groups of people based on their skin color, their religious affiliation, their gender or orientation, their disabilities, or their country of birth. *We must do better, and we pledge to be a network of faithful and prayerful learners, listeners, and activists, in God's name, joining others who similarly pledge to look beyond our own blinders and pursue justice.*

A group of eight people, four men and four women, are standing in a line in a gymnasium. They are dressed in casual athletic wear. The group is divided into two teams: four people on the left are wearing white shirts and pants/shorts, and four people on the right are wearing dark shirts and pants/shorts. A basketball is being passed from the person in the dark team to the person in the white team. The text "How many passes does the team in white make?" is overlaid on the image.

How many passes does the team in white make?

“Attention is the rarest  
and purest form of  
generosity.”



- Simone Weil

# Why Listening as an act of Solidarity?

Question: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer: I renounce them.

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Presider: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help

# Listening as an act of solidarity

lis·ten | \ 'li-sən \  
listened; listening \ 'lis-niŋ , 'li-sən-iŋ \

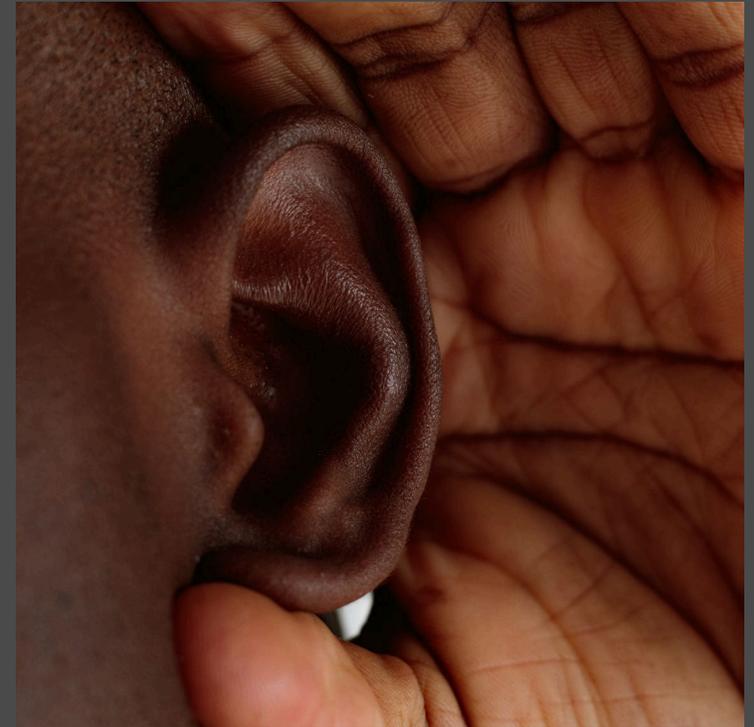
## Definition of *listen*

### intransitive verb

- 1:** to pay attention to sound : *listen* to music
- 2:** to hear something with thoughtful attention : give consideration : *listen* to a plea
- 3:** to be alert to catch an expected sound : *listen* for his step

### transitive verb

*archaic* : to give ear to : HEAR



# Listening as an act of solidarity

sol·i·dar·i·ty | \ ,sä-lə-'der-ə-tē , -'da-rə- \

## **Definition of *solidarity***

unity (as of a group or class) that produces or is based on community of interests, objectives, and standards

1829, from French *solidarité* "communion of interests and responsibilities, mutual responsibility," a coinage of the "*Encyclopédie*" (1765), from *solidaire* "interdependent, complete, entire," from *solide* (see **solid** (adj.))



Photo credit: Gemma Evans, unsplash.com

## Small Group Conversation

Share a moment when you felt truly listened to; when  
you think about that time...

how did you feel/what felt different about this  
encounter?

What did you notice? What made this experience  
different?

What did you take from that encounter?

“As a culture,  
we treat listening as an  
automatic process about  
which there is not a lot  
to say..  
it is in the same category  
as digestion, or blinking”

*MM Owen, PhD, author*

We all live + learn through CULTURE.

The dominant culture of the United States  
is the culture of the white middle class.

White culture organizes and makes sense of the world  
by influencing the way we think about:

TIME

THE SELF/INDIVIDUALISM

THE OTHER/OUR NEIGHBOR

"TIME IS MONEY.."





"I THINK, THEREFORE I AM."

"WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME,  
NEIGHBOR?"

"WHAT DOES ALL THIS HAVE TO DO  
WITH LISTENING?"



THE IMPORTANCE OF  
ONE SQUARE  
INCH