

Lectionary readings: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10; Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20; John 1: 43-51

For reflection and prayer

- **1 Samuel 3:** In v1 we read: *'The revelation of God was rarely heard or seen.'* It sounds a bit like our own generation: people don't expect to see God's presence; nor do they expect to hear His voice. People seem to have discarded God. We have to be God's presence in our society where we are. v9: *'Speak, God. I'm your servant, ready to listen.'* But are we really ready to listen to God? Do we take time to be still and silent before God and give Him a chance to speak to us? Let's pray for a desire to bring silence and stillness into our lives and to have a listening ear. Eli responded to God's revelation with the words: *'He is God. Let him do whatever he thinks best.'* I wonder how many of us would respond in that way? Eli was a priest, so perhaps he represents the church today. Eli had lost his vision and was not in tune with God. Have we the church got vision? Are we in tune with what God wants to say to our society today? God has to find a voice and let His presence be felt. Are we prepared to be that voice and that presence?
- **Psalm 139:** God knows each one of us intimately and He encompasses us with love wherever we are. He is our *'enveloping presence'* our *'reassuring presence'*. This is something beyond our understanding - too wonderful for us to take in. Why not read these verses every day this week and reflect on the depth of God's love for us. How can we be afraid or anxious when we

are in the hands of a God who has nothing but love in His heart for us?

- **1 Corinthians 6:** Paul urges us to honour God with our body because our body is sacred, made for God, the temple of the Holy Spirit. God lives in us; we belong to Him. God wants us, not to live as we please, but to live in such a way that we honour Him. Our faith must affect how we live.
- **John 1:** God had already been at work in Philip when Jesus invited Philip to follow Him. Philip shared the good news with Nathanael that they had found the Christ. Jesus knew what kind of person Nathanael was before they met - just as God knows us through and through. Nathanael thought the Messiah couldn't possibly come from Nazareth. We, too, think we know how and where God works, but we find Him in places where we least expect Him and in people we least expect to find Him in. Let's look for God in everyone we meet this week. And let's find God in all the circumstances of our lives, good and bad.

A prayer

Generous God, You have knit each one of us in our mother's womb; we are fearfully and wonderfully made; You have poured out Your love on us and continue to pour gifts and blessings on us day after day, despite the fact that for much of the time we totally disregard You. Merciful God, forgive us that we are unmindful of Your presence with us. Open us up to be alert to You, open to You, listening for Your voice, recognising Your presence in every person we meet. Ever-present God, may we hear Your voice each day inviting us to follow You in our journeying and to be Your loving presence to those we meet for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.