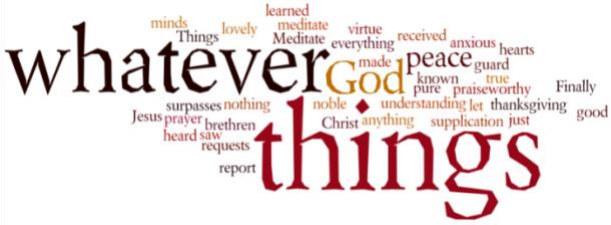

THINK ON THESE THINGS…..

Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1 - 9

6 Again the Lord called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” “My son,” Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. 8 A third time the Lord called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. 9 So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Reflection:

The well-known story of the boy Samuel hearing God’s call in the night is often taken to be a model for how God calls people. In this story Samuel hears God’s voice audibly. The voice calls his name in a very personal way, and the result of this call is that Samuel becomes a well-regarded prophet and judge.

This is a lovely story, and it definitely helps us to see that women and men are called into service of God’s saving purposes. It shows how Samuel’s call was not for himself, but for God’s people. However, we need to be careful not to view every call through the lens of Samuel’s experience.

The reality is that very few of us hear audible voices, and most of us will be called to tasks and positions that are much simpler and more ordinary. However, that does not mean that we are not called. For most of us God’s call means simply that we are to live by the values and priorities of God’s Reign, along with others, so that together we can help to make the world a little more compassionate and connected.

During the pandemic we have all been finding new ways to do just that, by sharing our compassion and connection with others through simple acts of kindness and generosity. Whenever we do this – when we share our attention, our time, our support, our care, our resources, we connect more deeply with them and we become more compassionate and understanding toward them.

Breath-Prayer for Today: Lord Jesus, you have called me, and I respond by offering whatever gifts of compassion and connection I can.