



**Blessed Sacrament Parish**  
**Homily by Father Mike Kuse**  
**May 7, 2017 Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Reading I Acts 2:14, 36-41**

**Psalm 23:1-8**

**Reading II First Letter of St. Peter 2:20-25**

**Gospel John 10:1-10**

**Homily**

Have you found your voice yet? This is not a TV program this morning. Have you found your voice? Do you feel that spirit of God inside of you that every day wakes you up and makes you say, "Get ready." Sometimes we just like to roll over in bed and think, "Give me 10 more minutes." Jesus says, "Get a life. It's God calling you. Get up. Wake up. See how to live your life."

When you and I hear the voice of God, it's the most powerful voice we have. The first voice that Bennett and Harper have heard has been the voice of their mothers who are carrying them in the womb. They recognize her voice. When a child is born, a child will always recognize the voice of the mother and think, "I know that voice." The child will also know the voice of the dad. We kind of think, "What's in your tummy? Is it a boy or is it a girl?" What's in that tummy is fully alive hearing better than anyone else in the world.

So we have to think, "Do I hear that voice over and over? How often do I hear God say to me, 'Please follow me. You're getting lost. You're going in circles with your life. I am the only one who can give you the voice to make sense of who you are.' " And you notice today when we baptize children, we baptize them by name. We don't say, "Hey, you, in the name of the Son, the Father and Holy Spirit." We baptize each child by name. Children are given a name. We all were given a name at birth. And Jesus knows that name.

The gate that Jesus talks about in the Gospel is a something we kind of create ourselves — we think of the pasture with the sheep, and we can see the shepherd with the staff, and we see that when the sheep are all in the enclosed area the gate is closed and then the sheep are safe. When morning comes the gatekeeper opens the gate and Jesus walks ahead of them. And he says, "Follow me. You were safe within the compound but now I am going to ask you to step out of there to do something unique in the world that no one else has ever done." That's what these two children are going to do. They are going to do something with their lives that has never been done before. That is why you and I should follow our dream, but the dream should always be one that hears the voice of God.

That voice is what allows us then to become family and create a home. I would venture to say that anyone who is going out and looking for a new home today, you find the place you think you should buy, and then questions occur. More than likely, no matter how nice that home is or how much it will cost is immaterial. And as you are going through the house it is going to be like the show on television, Home and Garden, where they show people five houses and they comment to each other as they tour the house: “Oh, I think that wall should go. And I hate that color. But this will fit in. And I like the kitchen. The bathroom doesn’t work.” Until finally you have created something that you call home. And once it becomes yours, then you are like the gatekeeper and you welcome people into your home, you bid them goodbye, but your home becomes a place where you laugh, you drink, you visit — that is what home is.

And Jesus says, “Your home is the miniature of the entire world.” But when we look at the world today, we are not all hearing the same voice. And the house that we want to buy, it really needs to be redecorated. Not with new plumbing or cabinets, but by a change of heart. In this house we call the world we need to learn to accept one another, and there are no borders, and it doesn’t make any difference what color your skin is. It doesn’t make any difference if I am a man or a woman or a child. But in this home, God’s creation, it is in this home where we live as sisters and brothers, even though we can’t speak the language and we don’t know our sisters and brothers in Africa or in Mexico or Australia, or anywhere in the world. But we all hear the same voice in our own language, and the voice that you and I yearn for is that voice of love.

These two children — they have a voice. Until they can talk, they will cry. They know that if they cry, “Someone will come to my rescue. And when someone comes to my rescue, I want them to love me, to hold me, to kiss me, to let me feel special.” And Jesus says, “If we can do that in our own homes, then why can’t we do it around the world? Why do we create misery and selfishness?”

So this Gospel becomes real year after year and Jesus is in every church and asking, “Do you hear my voice? My voice is the voice of love and you must follow me. If you don’t follow me, then you are a traitor to yourself. But I will keep calling you by name until you finally say, ‘I get it.’ ” And when you get it, Jesus says, “Then please use it. Use your voice to create peace and justice. Use your voice to mend all the fences. Use your voice to make everyone feel wanted and blessed.” Then, you will recognize the Good Shepherd. You will know that the one who is really in charge of this world is God, and his voice has been placed in all of our hearts. This morning that voice will be given to Harper and Bennett. And we as a community, as we are praying together and singing together, they will not know the songs — but they are hearing our voices. And what they are saying to us is, “God has a beautiful voice, and I don’t ever want to lose it.”

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