A Prayer to Listen to the Holy Spirit

Prayer Leader: Come to our aid, oh gracious and merciful God, as we bless ourselves in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Prayer Leader: Holy Spirit, we have need of you today. Open our eyes to your works and our ears to your words of life, inspired by your Word in the Holy Scriptures.

Reader: A reading from the Book of Kings.
[Read 1 Kings 19:11–13.]
The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Prayer Leader: The Scriptures remind us that the voice of God often comes in the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. We are invited to listen today and attune ourselves to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus showed us how to listen. Jesus listened to those who were suffering. He listened to the two blind men who asked him to restore their sight. He listened to children's needs, and he listened to the mother pleading for her daughter's health, even though others tried to silence her. Jesus pays attention to suffering and listens for its voice. Jesus, we ask you to help us to be deep, empathetic listeners as we reflect on what the Holy Spirit wants us to hear today. Our reflection is from the book *Shhh...God Is in the Silence* by Fiona Basile.

[Invite readers to alternate reading pages from the book. After each page, allow time for silence. Conclude with the sixth page of words, which ends with, "I am with you always."]

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Reader: Shhh…God is in the silence.
How is he speaking to you today?
[Pause before continuing the prayer.]

Prayer Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, speak to us today in the silence. We are listening. We are yearning for you to speak to us today. Come, Holy Spirit! We pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful…

Prayer Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

[After the prayer, you may wish to pose the following questions for reflection. They can be food for thought at home or used in discussion groups.]

- Where do you see the Holy Spirit working in you?
- What is on your heart for your ministry?
- Holy Spirit, what is on your heart for the world today?



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