



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

## **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

January 28, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

### ***“Listening to Jesus”***

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

If I am not mistaken, there is always someone in our lives whom we respect to listen to. Growing up as a kid, my grandmother would always remind me that when I was in school, I would do my best to behave, to learn, and to be kind. As simple as her words might be, I must say that I tried to do it even though, at times, I would get in trouble. To this day, every time I remember her, her words would be re-echoed as if throughout my life and mission, her reminders were worth keeping and practicing.

In our journey of life and faith, there is no one whom we can listen to other than Jesus. In the Gospel of John, He clearly spells out these words: I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life! His authority over all of humanity is worth embracing and practicing, for He indeed leads and gives peace, love, and joy.

There is no doubt that our world has become confusing, for we do not know anymore whom we listen to. The authority we adhere to is most likely those in positions of power, and we get swayed listening and supporting them even though we know that they do not adhere to respect life from all its stages. Not only that, but they also even disregard the place of God in public places, and there is no more freedom of religion as one would like to observe.

The people of Israel had Moses to speak for them, and they listened. In Jesus' time, His disciples came to believe and understand that He is the Christ. They lived up to their calling when they went proclaiming His message, except for Judas, who betrayed Him. They listened intently and received His Word that gave them life not only here on earth but in His Kingdom.

When we come to realize that we are falling away from the path of life Jesus traced for us, it is time to go back to Him. When we are getting weak because of overwhelming concerns in life, work, or health, we draw strength from Him. When we think that there is no more opportunity to stand up still because of our sinfulness, we get closer to Him and seek His mercy. When we know that our world is getting darker because we are losing hope, we hold on to Him to instill in our hearts that we are not alone in this journey. Remember last Christmas? He is Emmanuel, God with us.

Now we see why we need to listen to Jesus. Now we know why He is our Savior. Just listen not only with your ears but with your mind and heart. And start to surrender yourself to His will and authority.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual