

***He Hears Our Voice***

*"I Love the Lord, for he heard my voice, he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live."*

Like many young children, my daughter was afraid of the dark. When she would wake up in the morning, my daughter was often scared to come down the hallway to the bedroom with my wife and me, due to the dark hallway that separated our bedrooms. My wife and I told her to call out to us and we would answer. Because we could hear her voice, and because she could hear our voices, she then had the courage to scurry down the hallway to the safety of our room and our bed.

We are God's children and he listens to our voice. Much like a parent will listen to and help a child in need, so too does God listen to, and help us. Scripture teems with examples of God listening to his children and coming to their aid: God speaking to Moses in the form of a burning bush (Exodus 3:3); The Israelites Crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 14: 21-23); The Sun and Moon stood still while the Israelites fought and defeated the Amorites (Joshua 12: 10-14); Dagon's house pulled down by Sampson (Judges 14:5-6); The blind man cured by Jesus (Matthew 9: 27-31); Evil spirits cast out of a young man by Jesus (Mark 9: 14-29); Lazarus raised from the dead (John 11: 38-41); and the earthquake that released Paul and Silas (Acts 16: 25-26).

We face many challenges today, mass shooters killing innocent children and adults, poverty throughout this nation and the world, and political upheaval in his country and in other countries as well. But as we reflect on the goodness and mercy of God during this Lenten season, let us all be mindful that God has not forgotten us, or abandoned us. We are his children and he is our God. When we call out to him, he is always there and hears our voice. If we listen to his voice, his unwavering love and mercy will guide us down the dark hallways of life until we are together with him in Glory.



Roderick C. Young is a native of Richmond Virginia, a Fourth generation Presbyterian, and a United States District Judge in the Eastern District of Virginia. Judge Young received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from George Mason University. Thereafter, Judge Young obtained his Juris Doctor degree from the West Virginia University College of Law. Judge Young worked as an Assistant Public Defender in Portsmouth, Virginia and as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in Richmond, Virginia. Judge Young also worked as a Federal Prosecutor, in the U.S. Attorney's Offices in the District of Columbia and in the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division. Thereafter, Judge Young was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division. On September 29, 2020, Judge Young received his Article III judicial commission and began service as a United States District Judge in the Eastern District of Virginia, and is assigned to the Richmond Division.