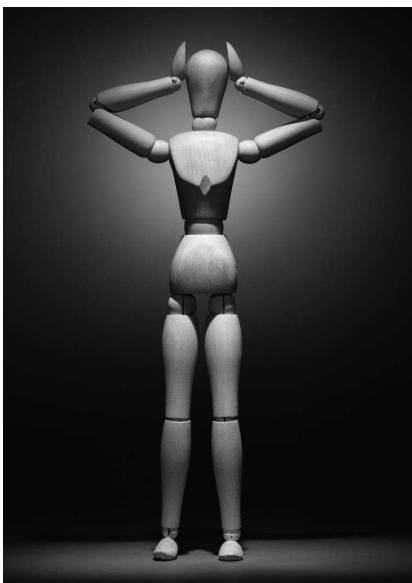


## Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

By Joel, son of Pethuel

Joel 1:14 - *“Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly. Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord.”* NIV

Joel was putting out a call to repentance. He was a gentle prophet who tried with kind and friendly words to help his people repent of their sins and turn to God *before* misfortune happened. But they did not listen to him anymore than the ‘doom and gloom’ prophets who tried to warn the people of God’s wrath to come.



There are similar messages being taught and preached today; people still don’t listen. They like doing the things they want to do and if they listen, they would have to change their ways. Repentance is not easy. Change is hard. Commitment requires a trust to one’s belief. People do not want to follow God’s laws. The way of this world is the same now as it was then. Just like Joel, we have to keep trying to tell people about the Lord.

Joel was calling for a national day of prayer. Joel called the whole nation to turn to God and plea for mercy. Each year, we have an official Day of Prayer for our nation. How many people fast and pray? How many listen?

I hope JOY Lutheran will call a sacred assembly. We could call the believers and all who live in this land to cry out to the Lord. The Bible says we need to have an inward belief and attitude to match our prayers. People considered Joel a fool. Christians are often considered to be foolish. Joel was right about what he said and what happened to Israel. We are right to continue to warn people about “the day of the Lord” and the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Lord God, help us to rend our hearts and return to You. You are gracious and compassionate, slow to become angry and You abound in love. Have pity and bless us for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Joyful Servant: Bettye Rosser