

“A New Year”

Polo First United Methodist Church  
Polo, IL

John 15:1-8

Psalm 46

January 1, 2012 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas)

**Prayer:** Speak to us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit. Quiet us so that we might hear your voice. Enable us to discover your will for our lives in this new year and the rest of our days. Amen.

Hear God’s voice. God says, “Be still. Be still and know. Be still and know that I am God.”

But God, I already know that. I don’t have to be still.

Listen again. God says, “Be still *and* know. Be still and know that I am God.”

Yeah, God, I heard you. But . . . why do I have to be still to know? I have so much to do, can’t you just take my word for it that I know that you are God without me having to stop doing what I have to get done?

Did you hear what I said? I said, “Be still and know that I am God.”

Alright. Fine . . . If you insist. But don’t expect me to shut off my brain from everything else. I don’t know why it matters if I’m still . . .

Please, just be still.

Okay . . . [LONG PAUSE] There . . . I was still. Was that long enough? Can I get back to everything else now?

What did you hear?

What is this a quiz?

What did you hear?

I didn’t hear anything, alright. Can I please just get back to everything else?

“Be still and know that I am God.”

Oh my gosh. You really are a broken record today aren't you? Alright . . . I can see you aren't going to get off me until I dedicate some time to this. How about on Saturday I pencil you into my calendar. I'll take the whole day just to be still! Will that be good enough?

“Be still and know that I am God.”

Seriously?! Fine. Don't you know how hectic this time of the year is? But I'll drop everything and do it right now. Will that make you happy?

“Be still . . .”

Alright. It's time to be still. This must be really important.

### **PLAY THE CENTERING VIDEO**

What did you hear?

Nothing else compares. No matter who you are. What you do. What your past is. What your future holds. Nothing else compares.

Do you know that?

Do you know that God is God? If you know that then why are you running around trying to be God? You can be still, and just know. You can stop striving. Stop worrying. Stop planning. And be still. And trust. And have faith.

God is God. Whether you're lifted up or brought low. Whether you're full or empty. Whether you have all things or nothing. Whether you're laughing or crying. Whether you're searching or you've given up.

God is God. Be still and know.

Amen.