

A Service of Worship on the Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday of Lent
First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses
March 19, 2023



FPCU Mission Statement

Our mission is to live out our faith as modeled by the life of Jesus Christ,
inspiring others in their faith journey.
We believe that our ability to do this comes through
engagement with scripture, prayer, literature, art, nature, active listening,
and learning from others with varied backgrounds and beliefs.

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(Nursery Care and Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall next door)

Gathering in God's Presence

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit.

PRELUDE

THE GATES OF HOPE

Victoria Safford

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of darkness and light,

All: open our eyes to your justice.

One: God of goodness and glory,

All: open our minds to your wisdom.

One: God of mercy and kindness,

All: open our hearts to your love.

*HYMN #314

"Christ Be Out Light"

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Lord of Light and Life,

I admit that I too often see only what I want to see.

I go through my days seeing automatically
without any real mindfulness or patient attention.

I tend to see what I have always seen,
blind to what I am missing as a matter of habit.

I use selective vision to make the world familiar and comfortable for me.

Great Healer, make my vision whole.

Wash away the criteria by which I evade seeing the pain of the world
and my complicity in it.

Give me the compassionate gaze of Christ,
so that I may clearly see and bear witness to the Christ's healing power.

SILENT PRAYER *(In this silence to recall your regrets, fears, and burdens.*

Take time to be personal and specific. Lay them at God's mercy seat.)

ASSURANCE

One: Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world.'

Jesus spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva
and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him,
'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent).

When the man went and washed,
he came back able to see.

**All: Touched by the spit and mud of the world,
cleansed by water and the spirit of Christ;
we are sent into the world restored to wholeness.**

I once was blind but now I see.

Thanks be to God for this gift of grace.

SONG #649

"Amazing Grace"

(verses 1 & 3)

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

We Proclaim God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION "Spirit of the Living God/Open Our Eyes, Lord" Daniel Iverson

Robert Cull

SCRIPTURE

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 42:18-23

NEW TESTAMENT

John 9:1-41

SERMON

Ms. Susan Joseph Rack

Responding to God's Word

*HYMN

"He Healed the Darkness of My Mind"

Gather #953



1. He healed the dark - ness of my mind The
2. Let oth - ers call my faith a lie Or
3. Ask me not how! But I know who Has

day he gave my sight to me. It was not sin that
try to stir up doubt in me. Look at me now! None
o - pened up new worlds to me. This Je - sus does what

made me blind; It was no sin - ner made me see.
can de - ny I once was blind, and now I see!
none can do; I once was blind, and now I see!

Text: John 9; Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000, © 1982, Hope Publishing Company
Tune: ARLINGTON, LM; David Haas, b.1957, © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION PRAYERS

One: Let us pray.

All: **Loving God,**

**through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer,
which earth has given, and human hands have made.**

**May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread,
so that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter.**

**We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared with all humanity
and shares with us now.**

**Made one in Christ and one with each other,
we offer these gifts and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION *(please cleanse your hands with sanitizer as you come forward)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Let us pray.

All: **Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life in our hands;
now we put our life in yours.**

Take us, renew us and remake us.

What we have been is past;

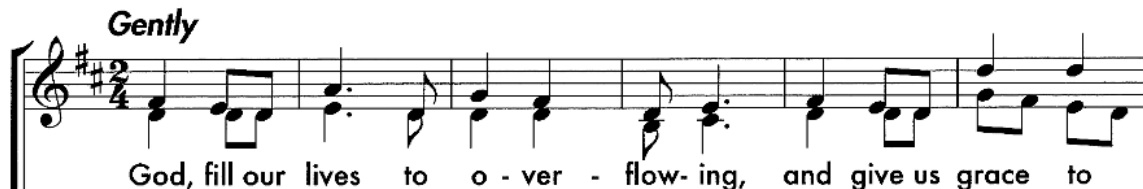
what we shall be, through you, still awaits us.

Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

OFFERTORY

"God Fill Our Lives"

lavender insert A2



Gently

God, fill our lives to o - ver - flow - ing, and give us grace to

share all that we are and are be -
com - ing through love and care.

Words & Music by John L Bell

CALLINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Abana in Heaven"

lavender insert A3

We Depart to Serve God in the World

***SENDING HYMN**


"Open Our Eyes"

Sing a New Creation #263

Come and bring light to a peo - ple in dark - ness.
Come set us free from the chains we have made.
We are your peo - ple, the flock that you tend. Lord,
o - pen our eyes once a - gain.

- 1 To the ones bro - ken - heart - ed:
- 2 To the vic - tims of vio - lence:
- 3 When a col - or di - vides us: O - pen our eyes.
- 4 To those full of life's sor - row:
- 5 To those suf - fer - ing ill - ness:

To the plight of the poor:
To the ones who seek jus - tice:
When the dark - ness sur - rounds us: O - pen our eyes.
To the needs of the low - ly:
To those trapped by ad - dic - tion:



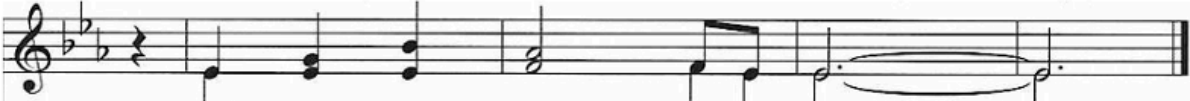
To the in - no - cent chil - dren:
 To those sit - ting in pris - on:
 When we choose to look else - where: O - pen our eyes.
 To the ones who seek peace:—
 To those lost or for - got - ten:

Refrain



Teach us com - pas - sion and love.

Last time



O - pen our eyes once a - gain.

Music & Text: Kevin Keil

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

One: Into a world of blindness and sight we go.

All: All human eyes have longing in them.

One: Into a world of ignorance and knowledge we go.

All: All human eyes have longing in them.

One: Into a world of despair and hope we go.

All: All human eyes have longing in them.

One: Touched by Jesus,

All: we go into a world longing to see Christ everywhere.

***BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE