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*Our Mission...*

*to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.*

*We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.*

The Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

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*\*The asterisk invites all to stand, if they are able, and the double asterisk \*\* indicates when to be seated;  
**Bold print** indicates a congregational response.*

## **WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

### Acknowledgment of Territory

*In this place we acknowledge that we live and work, play and worship on Treaty One Land, in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree and Dakota, and in the heart of the Metis Nation.*

*We are also aware that the water which brews our coffee and tea, the water we use in our kitchens and bathrooms, comes to us from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation.*

*We acknowledge, with respect, the history, spirituality and culture of these peoples. We acknowledge their stories and their stewardship of the land and water, the plants and animals, through many generations.*

*And as Treaty people, we acknowledge our ongoing responsibility to be good stewards of this land, and all that lives on it, even as we seek to live with respect in Creation and in peace and friendship with its peoples.*

### \*Opening Hymn: #228 VU – “Sing Praises to God”

*(Please see screen; Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529)*

- 1 Sing praises to God! Sing praise in the height;  
rejoice in God's word, blest angels of light;  
high heavens, recalling by whom you were made,  
come, offer your worship in brightness arrayed.**
- 2 Sing praises to God! Sing praise upon earth,  
in tuneful accord, you saints of new birth;  
praise God, who has brought you rich grace from above,  
and showered your life with abundance of love.**

**3 Sing praises to God, all things that give sound;  
each jubilant chord re-echo around;  
loud organs, your glory tell out in deep tone,  
and trumpets, the story of what God has done.**

**4 Sing praises to God! Thanksgiving and song  
be ever outpoured, all ages along:  
for love in creation, for hope spread abroad,  
for grace of salvation, sing praises to God.**

### Call to Worship

*When we are lost, we gather in community,*

**In order to feel God's love for us.**

*When we need to be reconciled to God and one another,*

**We gather in community, to be supported and strengthened.**

*Let us gather then, as those who are nurtured and cared for by our gracious  
God.*

**We will follow where Jesus leads us, throughout these days of  
Lent.**

### Opening Prayer

*We come to you O God, in this season of Lent  
to reflect again on Jesus' journey to the cross  
and beyond that, to resurrection.*

*We dare to do this, supported by the stories  
of the many promises and covenants  
you made to your people throughout history.*

*Come to us in this season, O God,  
and remind us again that you're always with us:  
through all the seasons of our lives;  
in times of wilderness journeys;  
and through death and resurrection.  
Amen.*

**\*Hymn: #575 VU – "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"**

*(Please see screen; Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529)*

**1 I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

- 2 I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**
- 3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**
- 4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

### Prayer of Confession

*God of Lenten journeys,*

*we are sorry for all the mistakes we have made this past week.*

*At times we have been angry,*

*at times we have been envious,*

*we have been hurtful, and at times impatient.*

*We are prone to feeling as though we are not loved or cared for,*

*by you or by others*

*(silence).*

*Forgive us God.*

*Help us to feel your presence in our lives once again.*

*Remind us that you will remain with us through all our wilderness  
journey's.*

*In Jesus' name. Amen.*

### Words of Assurance

*Now let us be comforted and glad.*

*God sent Jesus to live among us!*

*Through him we receive forgiveness and mercy for all our sins.*

*Praise be to God! Amen.*

### \*Sung Response: #96 MV– "And When You Call for Me"

*(Please see screen; Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529)*

**And when you call for me, I have already answered.**

**And when you call for me, I am already there. X2**

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### Scripture Lessons

#### **Psalm 23**

##### **The Divine Shepherd**

*A Psalm of David.*

<sup>1</sup> *The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

<sup>2</sup> *He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;*

<sup>3</sup> *he restores my soul.*

*He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.*

<sup>4</sup> *Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.*

<sup>5</sup> *You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.*

<sup>6</sup> *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.*

#### **Ephesians 5: 8 – 14**

<sup>8</sup>*For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—*<sup>9</sup>*for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.* <sup>10</sup>*Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.* <sup>11</sup>*Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.* <sup>12</sup>*For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly;* <sup>13</sup>*but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,* <sup>14</sup>*for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake!*

*Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.'*

## John 9: 1 – 41

### A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

<sup>1</sup>As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' <sup>11</sup>He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' <sup>12</sup>They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

### The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already

agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.'<sup>25</sup> He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.'<sup>26</sup> They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?'<sup>27</sup> He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?'<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.'<sup>30</sup> The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.'<sup>34</sup> They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

### **Spiritual Blindness**

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?'<sup>36</sup> He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.'<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.'<sup>38</sup> He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.'<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?'<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

### **Response:**

*We hear these words from Scripture.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **\*Hymn: #273 VU – "The King of Love"**

*(Please see screen; Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529)*

**1 The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;**

- I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine forever.**
- 2 Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.**
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed;  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home rejoicing brought me.**
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.**
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!**
- 6 And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever!**

Sermon – Rev. Brenda Gibson (Please see the attached sermon)

### **OUR RESPONSE**

#### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*Gracious God, we come before you offering our prayers of Intercession.  
We are aware of the many gifts you bestow on us and for this we are grateful.  
And yet O God, we are aware  
that we do not share much of our wealth and gifts with others.  
We ask your forgiveness.  
We ask that you be with those who suffer more than we.  
We pray for all the world's people,  
your children and our sisters and brothers everywhere.  
We pray for those: who hunger and thirst;  
those who have no medicine or clean water;  
those who are homeless or helpless;*

*those who are frightened or lost;  
those who are sick or dying;  
those who are lonely or alone;  
those who are imprisoned or tortured;  
those who are different from us.*

*We pray that you touch them with your loving care,  
that they may know healing and wholeness  
even as we can be agents of your love.*

*We pray also for ourselves, O God, and for our church  
(silence).*

*There are many issues in which we struggle  
and so we pray that we too may continue  
to be your servants of witness, of love, of healing  
and of wholeness for each other and the world.*

*We ask that you enable and empower us  
to move gently, lovingly and respectfully of all that is yours,  
of all that is others,  
that we may heal and not crush,  
restore and not hurt.*

*Lead us in your way and bring us, your children,  
to newness of life, in this Holy Season.*

*We ask these things in your Son's name who taught us to pray together saying:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## WE CLOSE OUR WORSHIP

\*Hymn: # 670 VU – “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

*(Please see screen; Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529)*

- 1     **Precious Lord, take my hand,  
lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
through the storm, through the night,  
lead me on to the light:  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**
  
- 2     **When my way grows drear,  
precious Lord, linger near,  
when my life is almost gone,  
hear my cry, hear my call,  
hold my hand lest I fall:  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**
  
- 3     **When the darkness appears,  
and the night draws near,  
and the day is past and gone,  
at the river I stand,  
guide my feet, hold my hand:  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

### The Blessing & Sending Forth:

*God gives us the courage to make the changes that are needed:*

**The will to speak out for justice in our community;**

*The desire to join with others for faithful service;*

**The experience of knowing God’s Love, and sharing it.**

*God blesses us as we continue our Lenten journey.*

**We go, as faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### \*Choral Benediction

**May the Lord go with you,  
let him take your hand.**

**Keep His love within you,  
until we meet again.**

**Amen.**