

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

10:00 AM

WELCOME! Your presence is a gift.

You are cherished by God.

Come, let us worship the Lord!

The Congregation's Part is in **bold**.

GATHERING SONG

Christ Be Our Light

ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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OPENING DIALOGUE

When our lives are joyous and laughter abounds,
Christ is dwelling there.

When the news is grim and we have nowhere to turn,
Christ is dwelling there.

In the water and word, the bread and wine,
Christ is dwelling there.

In our life and our death, in the new life to come,
Christ is dwelling there.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

THE COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

The Collect

Lord, open our lips
And our mouth shall declare your praise.

Let us pray. Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ
came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life
to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in
us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the LORD.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And

Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE SONG

AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

*My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace*

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

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The Gospel

John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 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, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.”

Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 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." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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." 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. 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."

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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 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." 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. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

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." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE MAASAI CREED *(stand)*

(This creed was composed by the Maasai people of East Africa. Through the experiences of the Maasai people, a universal faith is brought to life using local expressions.)

We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created Man and wanted Man to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the Earth. We have known this High God in darkness, and now we know Him in the light.

God promised in the book of His word, the Bible, that He would save the world and all the nations and tribes.

We believe that God made good His promise by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left His home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing the meaning of religion is love.

He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, He rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.

We believe that all our sins are forgiven through Him. All who have faith in Him must be sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love and share the bread together in love, to announce the Good News to others until Jesus comes again.

We are waiting for Him.

He is alive.

He lives.

This we believe. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Kneel, stand or sit*)

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work; For those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week,

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; For our local schools, police officers, firefighters, healthcare professionals and leaders of the local community;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble, especially all those affected by Covid-19, those who are feeling disconnected and alone, all who have been displaced from their jobs, and all those on our Spirit of Grace prayer list.

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Elizabeth Eaton and Michael Curry our Presiding Bishops,
and Bonnie Perry and Donald Kreiss our Bishops; and for all
bishops, priests, deacons and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

For all the blessings we have received

Let our prayers rise before you, O God, and receive them as
signs of our witness to your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against
you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you
with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as
ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For
the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and
forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in
your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit
in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is
forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ, who is the free and
abounding gift of God's grace for you. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

MUSICAL OFFERING *Goodness is Stronger than Evil*

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly hosts:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR SUNDAY

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR MISSION

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE & WORSHIP

You Are Mine

ELW 581



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
(4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
all will know my name. *To refrain*
up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



Refrain
Do not be a - afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine." *To stanzas 3 and 4*

4 "I

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Haas

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THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Things are changing day to day—please check your email and our Facebook page (if you have it) for updates*
- *Please keep connected with each other by telephone and digital resources*
- *If you are not receiving church emails, please follow the link on our website to sign up for our email blasts.*

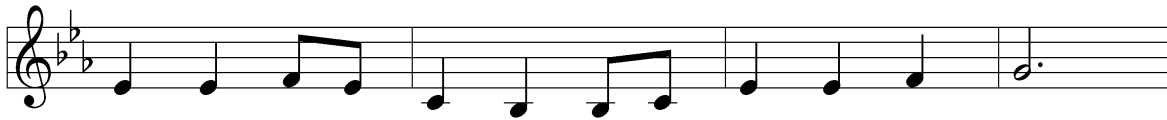
BENEDICTION FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always, the Father, the Son and + the Holy Spirit. Amen.

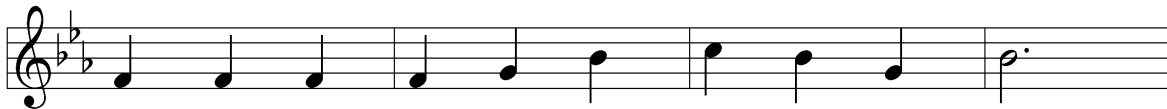
SENDING SONG

Be Thou My Vision

WOV 776



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish 8th–10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.
Music: SLANE, Irish tune

DISMISSAL TO GO INTO THE WORLD WITH HOPE AND JOY

Go in peace. Care for all who are poor in spirit and life.

THANKS BE TO GOD.