

Order of Worship March 20, 2022  
Third Week in Lent

**Gathering Music:**

**Open the Eyes of My Heart**

**GTG #452**

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart;

I want to see You, I want to see You. (2X)

To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory.

Pour out Your pow'r and love as we sing, "Holy, holy, holy." (repeat all)

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy; I want to see You. (repeat 3X)<sup>i</sup>

**Open Our Eyes, Lord; We Want to See Jesus**

Open our eyes, Lord; We want to see Jesus

To reach out and touch Him and say that we love Him

Open our ears, Lord and Help us to listen

Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus.

**Welcome**

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

**Call To Worship**

*Liturgist*

Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see! Once we lived in darkness, but now-

**(ALL) as children of light we are called to what is good and right and true.**

Jesus, Light of the world,

**(ALL). gives us eyes to see as you see!**

**Hymn: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.

### PREPARING FOR THE WORD

#### **Call to Confession**

*Liturgist*

As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good, and right, and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. God does not punish our sin with trials but desired our genuine contrition. And so, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

#### **Prayer of Confession**

Healing God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance, and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

#### **Words of Forgiveness**

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

#### ***Gloria Patri***

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,**

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.

### Hearing the Word

**Message for all God's Children**

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

**Prayer of Illumination**

*Liturgist*

Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are ready and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good, and right, and true.

**Old Testament Reading:**

*Liturgist*

*Isaiah 34:4-7*

Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, The Lord will come with vengeance; with divine retribution God will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

***Hymn***

*Open My Eyes That I May See*

*GTG #451*

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.

Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.

And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.

Open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

**New Testament Reading:**

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

*John 9:1-41*

As Jesus went 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?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg? Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said. They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" Then

they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said,[a] "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

*Sermon*

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

*"Keep Your Eye On The Ball"*

### Responding to the Word

*Anthem*

*Hymn of Promise*

**Affirmation of Faith**

*Liturgist*

**We believe in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen. (Philippians 2:5-11)**

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

**Invitation To The Offertory**

*Liturgist*

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. Sharing what we have so abundantly received, we bring now our tithes and offerings to God, with gladness and gratitude.

*Doxology*

GTG #607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. AMEN**

**Offertory Prayer**

*Liturgist*

**For all that you have done for us, O Lord, most especially for the gift of your gracious son, we offer our thanks and praise, and offer these gifts in gratitude for the blessings you bestow upon us. Amen**

*Hymn*

*Christ Be Beside Me*

#702

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts, thinking about me.  
Christ be on all tongues, telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
in ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

**Benediction**

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

May the Love of God pursue you, the light of Christ enfold you, and the Holy Spirit keep you; as you dwell in the house of the Lord your whole life long. Amen.

**Postlude**

