

**4th Sunday of Lent**  
**Date: March 19, 2023**

**Prayer of Preparation**                  Seasons of the Spirit

*Lead me, O God. Be the eyes of my spirit. Be the compassion of my heart.  
Be the opening of my mind. Be the shepherd of my way. In Jesus Christ. Amen!*

**Gathering in the Presence of God**

*\*Stand in Body or Spirit*

**Gathering Music**                          *Solemn Prelude*                          Charles Callahan

**Welcome**    Pastor Eddie

**Minute for Mission**                          OGHS    Elsie Marshall

**\*Call to Worship** (responsively)    Liturgist

Once you lived in darkness.  
    **Now the light of God has shone upon us.**  
Find what is pleasing to God and follow God's ways.

**The acts of darkness are left behind as we journey to God's light.**  
Thanks be to God who gives us the light.

**Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your light of salvation.**  
**AMEN.**

**\*Hymn**    *Open My Eyes, That I May See*                          GTG 451

**Preparing for the Word**

**Call to Confession/Invitation To Change**    Liturgist

Regardless of how we see, we are loved by Christ, who came to bring sight to the blind in mind and spirit, who knows our blind spots and gives us

new vision. Trusting in the Light of Christ let us make our confession, first in silent prayer...

**Confessing our Separation from God** (unison) Liturgist

Healing God, we have languished in our blindness. We have chosen to hide in darkness in order to avoid reaching out and risking acceptance. We are afraid of the light, and yet we crave it. In your light, there is healing and hope, restoration and transformation. Forgive our lack of faith and our fearfulness, O Lord. Give us courage to reach out to the light and accept its healing rays. May our lives be transformed by your mercy, for we pray this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

**\*Song of Compassion**      *Take, O Take Me as I Am* GTG 698

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

### **We Hear God's Word**

**Prayer of Illumination** Liturgist

**Hebrew Scriptures**      1st Samuel 16:1-13 Liturgist  
*Source: The New International Version*

This is the Word of God

**Response: Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem**      *Christ Be Our Light* GTG 314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness  
Congregation join the choir and guitars on the Refrain:  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

**Gospel Lesson**

John 9:1-11

Pastor Eddie

*Source: The New International Version*

This is the Word of God

**Response: Thanks be to God!**

**Reflection**

Are We So Blind?

Pastor Eddie

### **Responding to God's Word**

**\*Song of Affirmation**

*I Believe in Jesus*

Liturgist

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

Liturgist

**Invitation to the Offertory**

Liturgist

**Offertory**

*Be Thou My Vision*

Noel Rawsthorne

**\*Lenten Doxology**

G.W. Shepherd

Praise God through-out these forty days.  
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison)

Liturgist

Gracious Lord, as followers who are blinded by your wondrous light, we seek to be amplified beacons of your astonishing light to others. Help us to reflect your love by listening to your call and to your will for our lives. In gratitude, we dedicate these gifts in the name of the one who lived, died, and rose for our sake, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**We Follow God's Word into the World**

**\*Hymn**

*Be Thou My Vision*

GTG 450

**\*Benediction**

Pastor Eddie

**Postlude**

Tocatta in G minor

Johann Pachelbel

**\*Passing of the Peace of Christ**