



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

Centenary United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 22, 2020

Celebrating the Gift of Christ's Resurrection in Centenary United Methodist Church

Worship Leader: Pastor Heidi R. Chamberlain ~ Music Director: Janet Tucker

*Please stand, whether in body or in spirit

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

PRELUDE

As we gather, take time for quiet contemplation and prayer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Once you lived in darkness.

P: Now the light of God has shone upon us.

L: Find what is pleasing to God and follow God's ways.

**P: The acts of darkness are left behind
as we journey to God's light.**

L: Thanks be to God who gives us the light.

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

***HYMN**

"Be Thou My Vision"

UMH #451

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: 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

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ASSURANCE

L: Even though you have lived in darkness,
God's light is being poured out for you.
Accept the light and love that is freely offered,
and be transformed by its healing mercies. **AMEN**

CHOIR ANTHEM

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1 Samuel 16:1–13

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Ephesians 5:8–14

HYMN "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus" UMH #349

READERS THEATER: Fourth Sunday in Lent

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AT THE CROSS: THE MAN BORN BLIND

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 9:1-41

TIME OF REFLECTION

Rev. Heidi Chamberlain

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN** "Open My Eyes, That I May See" UMH #454

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE SHEPHERD'S PRAYER

All: The Lord is the Shepherd of my life; He provides all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows and leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along the right paths that bring honor to His name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for the Lord is close beside me. His presence protects and comforts me. I feast on what He provides me despite the presence of many foes. My enemies consider me specially anointed as with precious oil because I do not live in fear. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and love for me will continue all the days of my life, and no matter what happens, my home is with you forever! AMEN

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Responding to God's invitation, in joy, we offer our gifts

***THE DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**All: Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought;
bless thou the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in thy hand. AMEN**

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

CHORAL BENEDICTION "Bind Us Together" TFWS #2226

***THE BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE**

**L: Lord, give us such sight, that we may see the many ways of serving you by helping others. Help us bring sight to others who dwell in deep darkness.
AMEN**

POSTLUDE

Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES"

by Anna Murdock (c) 2011

<p>You prepared a table before me in the presence of my enemies and, at first, I was nothing more than a bleating sheep, unable to understand.</p> <p>It was when you asked me to help, O God, that I truly understood ... or at least understood in the way that you asked me to understand.</p> <p>You handed a chalice to me from the table you prepared and whispered, "For all." I gulped.</p>	<p>"Oh God... really? For all?"</p> <p>You whispered again, "Look into their eyes, offer to them what I have prepared, Some might be your enemies, but none are mine."</p> <p>And so I stood, at the end of an aisle, with chalice in hand and wept at the thoughts of my enemies welcomed to the table that was prepared for me in such a generous way.</p>	<p>The table was not mine; the guest list was not mine; the chalice never ran dry ... nor did the grace and mercy.</p> <p>Once again, I heard, "Do this in remembrance ... and remember, these are not my enemies."</p> <p>Over and over again, You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies, and then you say, "All sit ... together." And still the chalice never runs dry for those around the table - not even for me.</p>
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Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from *MinistryMatters.com* ©2017

Rev. Mark J. Webb, Resident Bishop – Lay Leader: *Dan Moore Snyder*

Rev. Mike Weeden, District Superintendent – Administrative Assistant: *Briana Maldonado*

Rev. Heidi R. Chamberlain, Pastor – Choir Director & Organist: *Janet Tucker*

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: *Beth Mosher*

Next Sunday: March 29, 2020

Liturgical Color: Purple – Lector: Phyllis Grady

Greeter(s): All of the Congregation!

TO CONTACT

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