



Service for the Lord's Day

MARCH 22, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

This is the day the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

PREPARE TO WORSHIP

(To be Read Silently)

"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.'
I Samuel 16:7

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT (GTG753)

(Sung in Unison)

***Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, And where there's doubt, true faith in you.***

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in love.

Live as children of the light.

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Let us worship God.

HYMN

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"
(verses 1, 2, 4, 5)*

*(See Screen)
GTG 14*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of great mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you. We look at outward appearances and fail to see what pleases you. We look with judgment on others and fail to see our own sin. Forgive us, by your steadfast love. Create a clean heart within us, teach us your holy way, and restore the joy of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the strong name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I declare to you we are forgiven and free to love God and neighbors.
In freedom let us give thanks, and glorify God always, who creates, redeems, and sustains. Amen!

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE (GTG 475)

(Sung in Unison)

***Come, thou Fount of every blessing; Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love!***

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May our Lent be filled with new peace in Christ. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!
And also with you.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SONG FOR ILLUMINATION (GTG 175)

(Sung in Unison)

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

FIRST READING

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

John 9:1-23

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Selena Ulasewich

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**SECOND READING**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

John 9:24-41

SERMON*"Seven Words: Courage"***Rev. Mike Ulasewich****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN*"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"***(See Screen)**
GTG 32**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVE THANKS FOR GOD'S GOODNESS**PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS****OFFERTORY***** DOXOLOGY****(Sung in Unison)**

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION**GO OUT TO SHARE GOD'S GOOD NEWS****HYMN***"Take My Life"*
*(verses 1-3, 6)***(See Screen)**
GTG 697**CHARGE AND BLESSING****BENEDICTION (GTG 753)****(Sung in Unison)**

*Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, And where there's sadness, ever joy.*

POSTLUDE

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year A

In one of the first instances of healing or miracle in this Gospel, John presents a story with layers of meaning, contrasting the blindness of those who could see with the insight and vision of one born blind. . . .

The action began with Jesus and his disciples encountering a blind man begging along the road. Apparently the disciples already knew him and his condition, since they commented that he had been blind from birth. What they didn't know, however, was who had sinned. Working from their worldview that illness and disability were the results of sin, they looked for a non-physical reason for the man's blindness. Jesus used their question to confront the inaccuracy of this notion, offer an opportunity to see the greatness of God, and confront the religious authorities with their own shortsightedness. . . .

The man was not consulted about his wishes. Jesus simply initiated the first step in the restoration process. He made mud to smear like ointment on the man's eyes and told him to take the second step—to wash in the pool of Siloam. Then able to see, the man returned center stage, and Jesus became a secondary character. First the neighbors and acquaintances, then the Pharisees and villagers, began questioning and speculating about what had happened. . . . The religious authorities squabbled and sputtered about the healing, which had been done on the sabbath. . . . They did not want to hear that someone who challenged their authority and broken sabbath law was a prophet. . . . and possessed a clearer vision of religious propriety than they. . . .

+++++

Dr. Douglas E. Wingeier edited a series of books entitled Keeping Holy Time: Studying the Revised Common Lectionary. One of his contributors wrote the commentary for John 9:5-41, which appears on pages 135-136 in Volume A.

PCUSA MISSION HIGHLIGHT AND PRAYER

From fighting against wage theft to pushing for more affordable housing, the Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance has made its mark by challenging injustice in their southern California enclave since 1992. The alliance, also known as [KIWA](#), is on the frontlines, bringing about change for low-wage workers and other vulnerable community members in the Los Angeles area. KIWA's advocacy work has led to better pay and working conditions at markets and restaurants in Koreatown and elsewhere in Los Angeles.

The nonprofit also co-developed a 52-unit affordable housing complex, Casa Yonde, in Koreatown in 2014, and continues to provide supportive services for tenants, who include formerly homeless individuals and families. Some former foster youths, people with mental health issues and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, also may reside there. KIWA's advocacy work has led to better pay and working conditions at markets and restaurants in Koreatown and elsewhere in Los Angeles. Creator God, we pray that you will give us the vision to see opportunities to serve you. Help us forge connections to work together to accomplish your work in the world. Amen. *Mission Yearbook*, March 11.

CWU LENTEN LUNCHEON

In a move of caution, the Faulkner County Unit of Church Women United has chosen to suspend the Thursday Lenten Luncheons, including the one scheduled to be hosted by our church on March 26.

ROCKIN' THE CRADLE 5K/1K

Conway Cradle Care is hosting the 3rd annual Rockin' The Cradle 5K/1K fundraising fun run/walk. The main goal of the event is to raise awareness of the effects of adolescent parenthood and funding for the Conway Cradle Care childcare and mentoring programs. Strollers and little ones are welcome. Snacks, water, music, and swag bags will be provided. If you are not a runner or walker, you can sign up as a "Spirit Runner" to show your support or you can come volunteer.

WHEN: April 11, 9am

WHERE: Race starts in the Conway High School parking lot behind FPC

REGISTRATION: <https://runsignup.com/Race/AR/Conway/RockinTheCradle5K1K>

PASTORAL CONCERNS

OUR MEMBERS & REGULAR ATTENDEES:

Barbara Haggerty - pervasive cancer; Susan Heily - peace endeavor (Agua Prieta, Mexico) and safety; Jane Martin - recovering from cataract surgery

OUR FAMILIES & FRIENDS:

Jon Roger Ally, friend of Michael Vinson - hospice care; Kay Andrew, friend of Nancy Burris - recovering from car accident/broken neck; Gail Clayton, friend of Richard & Sheila Talley - cancer; **Nell Ann Dean, sister-in-law of David Chance**; Tammy Haggerty, daughter of Barbara Haggerty - brain cancer; **Nyla Heath, cousin of Ben & Sherry Wiley - dementia**; Martha McFall, mother of Sheri Hardman, friends of Terry & Pam Reynolds; Greg Nobles, friend of Julie Agee Gillaspay - ALS and MS; Mary Reed, friend of Julie Adkisson - knee replacement; **Dorothy Schaalma, grandmother of Emily Hanson**; Barbara Wann, cousin of Jane Martin - undergoing chemotherapy for cancer

THOSE SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Jeffrey DuBose, grandson of Maureen Leverett, Army National Guard; John Robert Gaunt, great nephew of David Chance, Air Force; Bryan Overton, son of Debbie Shannon, Navy; Holbrook Furniss, grandson-in-law of Toni Edsall, Army National Guard; Isabel Furniss, granddaughter of Toni Edsall, Air Force; Seth Tribett, son of Toni Edsall, Air Force

OTHERS:

Coronavirus Victims & Caregivers Worldwide

BENEVOLENCE/DAILY BREAD BALANCES

Benevolence— \$730

Daily Bread— \$178