

Welcome to our Guests: Please use the Connect Card in the pew to let us know how we can serve you. Thank you for joining us today. We hope to see you again soon.

After the Service: Please join us for refreshments in the Parlor.

Families with Children: We're glad your kids are here! During the service, there is a nursery available on the lower level. Kids are asked to come to the front during Time with Children. They are welcome to visit the children's worship corner throughout the service.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

**Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 22, 2020**



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CALL TO WORSHIP:

God does not see as mortals see.
We look on the outward appearance;
God looks on the heart.
Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!
Once we lived in darkness, but now—
as children of light, we are called
to what is good and right and true.
Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Holy God,
why is it that we look, but do not see?
Bring us again and again into your light
until your ways become visible to us, and bear fruit in us.
Touch us so that we are utterly changed,
a “before” and “after,” a “now” and “then”;
that we may also say, “One thing I do know,
that though I was blind, now I see.”
Lord, we believe; help our unbelief.
In Christ’s light, we pray. **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN:

**Please stand as you are able.*

*CALL TO CONFESSION:

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.
Knowing that we turn from the light,
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.

DOXOLOGY:

**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 THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING HYMN:

“Go Now In Peace”

*BLESSING:

HOUSEHOLD PRAYERS

MORNING

Good morning, Lord.
The day has dawned with the gift of sunlight,
and I awaken from sleep
into the light and grace of Christ.
Thank you for this new day. Stay with me, I pray,
shepherding me through all that the day will hold.
Lead me into pleasant places,
and give me the provisions I will need
if I find myself in difficulty or danger.
Whenever the cup of gladness overflows,
help me to recognize that it is filled
with your goodness and mercy.
In praise and anticipation I begin this day;
in Jesus’ name. Amen.

EVENING

With the night, Good Lord, comes rest,
and a chance for my soul to be restored.
You are with me in this and every darkness,
so I will not be afraid.
For all I have seen with my own eyes today,
for all others have helped me to see, I give you thanks.
For those things that I did not notice:
signs of beauty and kindness, evidences of your grace,
I pray that you will improve the eyes of my faith
so that I can see you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly tomorrow, and all my tomorrows.
In the name of your Son, my Savior, I pray. Amen.

¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ¹⁹ “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?” ²⁰ “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. ²¹ 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.” ²² 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. ²³ That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴ 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.” ²⁵ 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!” ²⁶ Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ 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?”

SERMON: *“Healing and Belonging (Part 2)”* Rev. Dr Jared Witt

THIRD READING: John 9:28-41

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” ³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” ⁴¹ 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: *“Healing and Belonging (Part 3)”* Rev. Dr Jared Witt

***THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things
were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy
Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come
again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the
prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one
baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of
the world to come. Amen**

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**Gracious God,
we are people who still love distortion rather than light.
We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue.
We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others.
We do not stand firmly enough with those who
are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves.
Forgive us, we pray.
Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly.
Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved.
Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives.
Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE **#377**

**O Lord, have mercy, O Lord have mercy,
O Lord have mercy, have mercy on us.
O Christ have mercy, O Christ have mercy,
O Christ have mercy, have mercy on us.**

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:**

The psalmist assures us
that God’s goodness and mercy will follow us,
even pursue us,
all the days of our life.
As God’s forgiven people,
receive this goodness and mercy,
and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.
**We will live as children of the light
for Christ shines on us.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us offer and receive the peace of Christ as a sign of
God’s grace and assurance of forgiveness.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
(Take a moment to share Christ’s peace by greeting those around you.)

***SUNG RESPONSE**

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

God our faithful Shepherd,
we depend on you for everything we need:
for daily food, for guidance and protection,
for healing in injury and comfort in sorrow.
You respond in abundant provision.

Thank you for your tender care of us.
Thank you for soothing the wounds of this life.

Thank you that in the presence of enemies,
especially the last enemy of death,
you are with us, as Shepherd, Host, Home.

Knowing your faithfulness in our lives,
we bring before you the lives of others, the cares of this world,
entrusting all things to your goodness and mercy.
Bring healing to those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit.
**Bring release to those who are held captive by old hurts
or new bonds that oppress and entangle.**
Bring freedom to those unjustly accused,
relief to those burdened with debt,
comfort to all who suffer from abuse of any kind.

We remember those living in the midst of drought and famine.
We pray for rain to fall and crops to grow,
and for generosity to overflow from our own hands and resources,
**until all your children receive their daily bread;
until all your children have clean water to drink;
until all your children have adequate shelter and medical care.**

Compel us to be better stewards of creation
so that our habitation is sustainable and responsible.

We pray for those near to us who need your strength and healing...(prayer cards)
We pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud...

Loving God, help us to see the world as you see it;
to see others as you see them; and to see ourselves rightly, too.
Because you have come into this world for judgment,
we can leave our judgments behind.
Pursue us all with your goodness and faithful love
until goodness and faithful love fills every heart
and informs every action. We pray these things in the name
of the one who came that we might see, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN & 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.

SONG OF ILLUMINATION:

The image displays a musical score for a three-part setting of the hymn "Song of Illumination." The score is written for three voices: Part 1 (Soprano), Part 2 (Alto), and Part 3 (Bass). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D-flat minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics for all parts are "O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart." The notation includes treble and bass staves with various musical notes, rests, and bar lines. The lyrics are written below the corresponding staves.

FIRST READING: John 9:1-12 pg. 988

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” ¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked. ¹¹ 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.” ¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.

SERMON: *“Healing and Belonging (Part 1)”* Rev. Dr Jared Witt

SECOND READING: John 9:13-27

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.” (continued on next page)