**CALL TO GATHER**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*Welcome to our worship in separate locations of First Presbyterian Church. If we were meeting in person, we would be holding a bulletin with all of the elements of Worship printed in it. Since we are not meeting together, we hope that you will take time to watch a televised worship service or find one on-line. Until such time that our church comes up with an electronic version, we want to offer this order of worship for your use this week.

\*Please click on the links designated below for music and sing along. (May have to Click “Go to Page”)

\*Scroll to the bottom of the last page for a link to a **free Illustrated Children’s Lesson** for this Sunday based on Psalm 23.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 23:1, 3, 5-6)

One:  The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I lack.

**All:  God guides me in proper paths for the sake of God’s good name.**

One:  God bathes my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over!

**All:  Yes, God’s goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life.**

\***HYMN**  *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* 32

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=4Hx_Baw0YUk&list=RDAMVM4Hx_Baw0YUk>

1 I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,

that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.

The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

2 I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.

God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,

if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

3 There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.

And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,

while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,

and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

\***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.

\***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness 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.

**SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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.

**THE GLORIA PATRI**

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=kDru47JYs9A&list=RDAMVMkDru47JYs9A>

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.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**:  1 Samuel 16:1-13

**16**The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” **2**Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ **3**Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” **4**Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” **5**He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

**6**When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” **7**But 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.” **8**Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” **9**Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” **10**Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” **11**Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” **12**He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” **13**Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**: John 9:1-41

**9**As he walked 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**Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. **4**We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. **5**As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” **6**When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, **7**saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. **8**The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” **9**Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” **10**But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” **11**He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” **12**They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

**13**They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. **14**Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. **15**Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” **16**Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. **17**So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

**18**The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight **19**and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” **20**His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; **21**but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” **22**His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. **23**Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

**24**So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” **25**He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” **26**They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” **27**He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” **28**Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. **29**We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” **30**The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. **31**We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. **32**Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. **33**If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” **34**They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

**35**Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” **36**He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” **37**Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” **38**He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. **39**Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” **40**Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” **41**Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

**THE RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE**

Pastor:  This is the written testimony to the word of the Lord.

**People:  Thanks be to God.**

**REFLECTION**  *Shining Light Into the Darkness* Rev. Wanda B. Olive

Lent is an opportunity for stepping out the usual pace of our lives — all of the activities and need to go to things. But what a reality now that we have been asked to stay at home, shelter in place, cease meetings of ten or more especially worship services. It’s been unsettling and challenging for many of us. We will get through this!

In our gospel lesson today, Jesus restored the blind man’s physical sight and then his spiritual sight was opened to new understanding. Theologian Anna Carter Florence wrote that this text is all about time. “before and after, then and now, years ago and today, always and then suddenly” . . .(*Feasting* . . . , 117).

Walking along Jesus noticed this “man blind from birth” (v. 1). So he spat on the ground, made mud, put the mud on the blind man’s eyes, and instructed him to go wash at the pool at Siloam. Notice the difference between before and after. The blind man had sat at the city gate begging. Now he could see. People did not recognize the sighted man, they only new him as he was before. His witness was “though I was blind, now I see” (v. 25).

How does the way we look at things affect the way we see? I found this analogy on FaceBook this week especially true for today:

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere.

Why did you spill the coffee?

"Because someone bumped into me!!!"

Wrong answer.

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup.

Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea.

\*Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.\*

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

\*So we have to ask ourselves... “what's in my cup?"\*

When life gets tough, what spills over?

Joy, gratefulness, peace and humility?

Anger, bitterness, harsh words and reactions?

Life provides the cup, YOU choose how to fill it.

Today let's work towards filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation; and kindness, gentleness and love for others.

This time of pause in our daily activities offers us a time to take a break and pause. Worshiping God in ways that we’ve never considered before (Like these seemingly endless Worship Planning pages!). We will get through this!

\***HYMN** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* 39

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=pq3w7Rd_azw&list=RDAMVMpq3w7Rd_azw>

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;

there is no shadow of turning with thee.

Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.

As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,

sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

join with all nature in manifold witness

to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,

strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:

blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *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 Ghost, 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 on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic church;

the communion of the saints; the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*On our prayer list today:  John T. Hoffman, Jim and Barbara Smith, Barbara Hoffman, Nelda Skinner, Tammy Knight, Peggy Holden, Alex Hensley, Carol Preston and family in the death of her father, Charles Brown, Wayne Ruggles (had heart valve replacement and bypass surgery Friday), Joyce Turner, Will Humpkey, Rachel Wilson Jewell, Margaret and Tommy Barnhill the neice and nephew of Elwood Sharron, First Responders and doctors and nurses everywhere. . . . Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers . . .*

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=0hBmORUrewM&list=RDAMVM0hBmORUrewM>

Holy God,

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.

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 pray for those living precariously in the midst of the fears of Coronavirus19.

Protect, we pray, citizens and healthcare workers alike,

and teach us to put away our partisan politics so that we can look after each other,

guide us instead to take up words of peace and reconciliation.

By the power at work in Christ,

break down the walls of hostility we build

so that we may learn to live together graciously.

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.

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 an “after,”

a “now” and “then”;

that we may also say, “One thing I do know,

that though I was blind, now I see.”

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

And praying now the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray, “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 deptors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.“

**THE OFFERTORY** During this time, please consider taking out your checkbook and making your usual offering to the First Presbyterian Church, Georgetown. Put it in an envelope and mail it to the church P.O. Box 533, 40324. Even though we are not meeting in the Sanctuary, we still have on-going missions and ministries. Please enjoy the following:

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=sRktxIohE0c&list=RDAMVMgCoN-xwjs5E>

**THE DOXOLOGY**

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=z3Od1HUTQXM&list=RDAMVMz3Od1HUTQXM>

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude — especially in these times of uncertainty. We pray that you will impress upon our lives the knowledge of your blessing so that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. Amen.

**HYMN** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*834

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=AWFd5ohIW30&list=RDAMVMAWFd5ohIW30https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=AWFd5ohIW30&list=RDAMVMAWFd5ohIW30>

1 Precious Lord, take my hand

Lead me on, let me stand

I'm tired, I'm weak, I am worn

Through the storm, through the night

Lead me on to the light

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

2 When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near

When my light is almost gone

Hear my cry, hear my call

Hold my hand lest I fall

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

3 When the darkness appears and the night draws near

And the day is past and gone

At the river I stand

Guide my feet, hold my hand

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

Precious Lord, take my hand

Lead me on, let me stand

I'm tired, I'm weak, I am worn

Through the storm, through the night

Lead me on to the light

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

**BENEDICTION**

Arise! Shine!

for the light of Christ is upon you.

Go into the world bearing the fruit of Christ’s light

so that all might see what is good and right and true;

and live as children of the light to the glory of God.

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.

**AMEN**

Worship Notes:  Some of the Liturgy and prayers are reprinted with permission of the Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, Copyright 2013.

**Parents and grandparents Free children’s ministry resource** for this Sunday:

<https://illustratedmin.s3.amazonaws.com/weekly-resources/Lent-Week4.pdf>