

West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church
Belleville, PA



Second Sunday of Lent
March 19, 2023

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Welcome on the 4th Sunday of Lent. Often called 'Rejoice Sunday' this is the pivot point, near to the half-way mark between Ash Wednesday and Lent. St. Paddy's day is often near this mark when traditionally Lenten practices were cast off for a day. In the coming three weeks we see our path more clearly to Easter morning and the celebration of Christ's joyous resurrection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Ela is away this week to visit Bill's mother who has been ill. We thank Elder Sally Johnson for a special message today. Rev. Joy Kaufmann is available for emergency pastoral care and hospital visits. You may call her cell at (717) 250-6307.

SILENT PRAYER

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.**

INTROIT - PH# 324 *Open My Eyes That I May See* Verse 1

OPENING WORDS / CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God does not see as mortals see,

We look on the outward appearance;

God looks on the hearts.

All: 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.

All: Jesus, Light of the World,

Give us eyes to see as you see!

HYMN of PRAISE PH #83 *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Knowing that we turn from 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.
Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God
intends.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of perfect love, you continually bring forth life,
transforming sadness to joy, and despair to hope
We are weak, but you are strong.
Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true.
We are seldom right, but you are never wrong.
Forgive us, redeem us, transform us.
Take away the sin that burdens us,
and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our
Savior. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Relentlessly, God seeks us out.
With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out.
This is good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*PEACE OF CHRIST Let us extend the Peace of Christ to those here and beyond
the walls of our Sanctuary.

The Peace of Christ be with You!! C: **And also with You.**

*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory to be the Father
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning
is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen

FIRST READING Ephesians 5:8-14

GOSPEL READING John 9:1-41

Many of our gospel readings during the season of Lent tend to be stories that involve some length in their unfolding. They are thoughtful and provoking. In this reading from John 'Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction from the Pharisees, a reaction that Jesus regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.'

MESSAGE

Sally Johnson

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN PH #170 *The Lord is My Shepherd* Verses 1,3,5

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain

and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death

can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

JOYS and CONCERNS.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Great God, in you is more love than we can imagine and more grace than we can fathom. You have shown yourself in Jesus Christ as a God who meets us where we are and loves us as we are. We are glad for this day and grateful for your many gifts. You bring good things into our lives, more than we can name, more than we can number. You give us the bread of life, sustaining our souls and feeding our deepest hungers. You accompany us on our way. Thank you for your abundant faithfulness.

Our hearts are full with many things today. Disease and death and pain and sorrow are constantly among us. The journey through these days is marked by uncertainty and heartache. We are frequently overwhelmed by the needs around us and within us. Some need healing, some need encouragement, some need comfort, some need assurance, we all need hope. So we turn to you asking you to hear our prayers and grant what we need for the living of these days.

We pray for our community and the fear and disbelief that lingers from the active shooting event last Thursday. We pray for our nation. We pray for renewed commitments to our common life. Refresh us in the values of your heart: justice, righteousness, compassion, mercy, peace. Help us to find a unity of purpose as citizens and neighbors.

We pray for your church in places near and far. May the waters of your grace continually refresh and empower us to extend the love of Jesus to all people. We pray for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), for the clarity of our witness and the success of our mission.

We pray for our congregation, for our life together, and for our efforts to follow in the way of Jesus. Hear us. Hold us. Heal us. Help us.

LORD'S PRAYER

For the sake of our Savior, our Lord, Jesus Christ who taught us to pray like this:
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.

HYMN: *I Danced in the Morning*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

(Rom. 4:4)

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. *Ps. 23:5*
 Sharing what we have so abundantly received,
 we bring now our tithes and offerings to God,
 with gladness and gratitude.

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the head of the church and the Lord of our lives. **Amen.**

SENDINGCHARGE (*1 Sam. 16:4, 7b, Eph. 5:8b, Ps. 23:4*)

Go peaceably, looking upon the hearts of others.
 Live in Christ's light, even in the darkest valley.
 Trust that he is able to open your eyes,
 enabling you to walk by faith in his name.

*SENDING SONG *I Danced in the Morning* refrain

BLESSING

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.

Worship leaders:

Ann McNabb - Lay reader

Matt Waddell - Liturgist

Seulki Yoo- Message, Music Ministry

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Feasting on the Word, Year A, Volume 1.

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Questions for Reflection

Samuel is told that God does not look upon outward appearances, but looks upon the heart. Then God chooses David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be Israel's next king. We know that as he grew and as life became very challenging, King David's heart was not pure. He was a mixture of great courage and faithfulness—and great sin and failure. What do you suppose God saw and loved in David's heart? What do you think God loves when God looks upon your own heart?

Household Prayer: 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.

Household Prayer: 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS***Joys and Concerns***

Elliana Byler, Laura Baggus, Anne Marie Yoder, Pam Ritchey Leevi Fultz, John Stroup, Cathy Drury, Ann Peachey, Hannah Faulkner, Jim Marthouse, Pat Byler, Sherwood & Barb Frankhouser, Kyung Sun Yim (Susie's mother), Bertha Penepacker, Jon Helfrick, Cindy Coder, Shawna Horn

Please pray for those who have lost loved ones in the past months

Please pray for all those who are undergoing diagnosis, operations, and treatments.

Earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria. The safety of our Big Valley community.

In rehab. Ann Peachey: Hawthorne Center - Sarasota, 5381 Desoto Road, Sarasota, FL 34235.

Valley View Haven Valley View Terrace

Alice Long – Room 510 Larry & Jean Ecklund A120 Doris Wilson – Room 502

Westminster Woods: Bill Rumbaugh – 360 Westminster Drive, Huntingdon, PA 16652 Ron Bailey, 109 Sycamore Way, Huntingdon, PA 16652

In the Military: Rob Westover, Eric Kauffman, Shawn Seager, Michael Yutesle