

ROCK LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 22, 2020

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE "My Jesus, I Love Thee" Arr. Lloyd Larson

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

OPENING HYMN "For the Beauty of the Earth"

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want

You prepare a table before me

In the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life.

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

my whole life long.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

(A time for personal confession) Let All God's people say: **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

RESPONDING WITH SONG

**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.**

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL

John 9:1- 41 (CEB)

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's mighty works might be displayed in him. 4 While it's daytime, 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 he said this, he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on the man's eyes. 7 Jesus said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (this word means sent). So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see... 8 The man's neighbors and those who used to see him when he was a beggar said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some said, "It is," and others said, "No, it's someone who looks like him." But the man said, "Yes, it's me!" 10 So they asked him, "How are you now able to see?" 11 He answered, "The man they call Jesus made mud, smeared it on my eyes, and said, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and then I could see." 12 They asked, "Where is this

man?" He replied, "I don't know." 13 Then they led the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. 14 Now Jesus made the mud and smeared it on the man's eyes on a Sabbath day. 15 So Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. The man told them, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and now I see." 16 Some Pharisees said, "This man isn't from God, because he breaks the Sabbath law." While Others said, "How can a sinner do miraculous signs like these?" So they were divided. 17 Some of the Pharisees questioned the man who had been born blind again: "What do you have to say about him, since he healed your eyes?" He replied, "He's a prophet." 18 The Jewish leaders didn't believe the man had been blind and received his sight until they called for his parents. 19 The Jewish leaders asked them, "Is this your son? Are you saying he was born blind? How can he now see?" ...20 His parents answered, "We know he is our son. We know he was born blind. 21 But we don't know how he now sees, and we don't know who healed his eyes.- Ask him. He's old enough to speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they feared the Jewish authorities. This is because the Jewish authorities had already decided that whoever confessed Jesus to be the Christ would be expelled from the synagogue. 23 That's why his parents said, "He's old enough. Ask him." 24 Therefore, they called a second time for the man who had been born blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know this man is a sinner." 25 The man answered, "I don't know whether he's a sinner. Here's what I do know: I was blind and now I see." 26 They questioned him: "What did he do to you? How did he heal your eyes?" 27 He replied, "I already told you, and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" 28 They insulted him: "You are his disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. 29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but we don't know where this man is from." 30 The man answered, "This is incredible! You don't know where he is from, yet he healed my eyes! 31 We know that God doesn't listen to sinners. God listens to anyone who is devout and does God's will. 32 No one has ever heard of a healing of the eyes of someone born blind. 33 If this man wasn't from God, he couldn't do this." 34 They responded, "You were born completely in sin! How is it that you dare to teach us?" Then they expelled him. 35 Jesus heard they had expelled the man born blind. Finding him, Jesus said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him." 37 Jesus said, "You have seen him. In fact, he is the one speaking with you." 38 The man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Jesus. 39 Jesus said, "I have come into the world to exercise judgment so that those who don't see can see and those who see will become blind." 40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard what he said and asked, "Surely we aren't blind, are we?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you wouldn't have any sin, but now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responding to God

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Col. 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.**

**‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

**The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

Going Forth to Serve

BENEDICTION AND WORDS OF DISMISSAL

Now, the blessing of the one God – Spirit, Son, and Father – be with you now and always. **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Church Notes

FLOWERS FOR EASTER has been cancelled due to current circumstances and uncertainty of our being together for worship. Any orders already received will be refunded.

HEART AND HAND is requesting food pantry needs of macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, chunky soup, cereal, and granola bars.

FESTIVAL OF FAITH 2020: Scheduled for Saturday, March 28, at First Presbyterian Church in Charleston has been postponed indefinitely.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPRING GATHERING: March 28, at Saint John XXIII in Charleston has been cancelled.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is Tuesday, March 24. Please submit your items to rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com by this date. Thank you.

MEMBERS WISHING TO BLESS RLPC'S MINISTRY FINANCIALLY

With the fact that we are not coming together for worship, many of you who have generously given to the ministry of RLPC may want to continue your gifts to the church. Please drop your gift by the office or send it by mail. A prayer of dedication will be included in the Prayers of the People. Thank you for your support of our missions.

RLPC ACTIVITIES

Until such time as the emergency is resolved, the Session has indicated that all church gathering activities **except** the snack packs will be cancelled.

Prayer List

*To add/remove/correct names on the prayer list,
please call the church office (768-4141) or email rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com*

Prayers for Concerns – Our friends and neighbors and their families

Hilda Alsop's 94 year old	Brad Harkins	Sarah Shaver
Aunt Ocie and daughter, Bonnie	Addilyn Hardin	Mike Spurgeon
Merrily Bailey	Tre' Hardin	Susan Spurgeon
Niall Bailey	Willie Haynes	Bill Wagner
Sgt. Major Jeff Bibb	Jim Johnson	Ella Grace Washington
Day Bishop	Mark King	
Barb Clark	Cheryl Laws	Family of Carless Williams on the occasion of his death.
Dick Clark	Cheryl Morgan	
Jo Clark	Abby Pauley	
Sue DeWald	Jackie Pauley	Family of Sergeant First Class Harold Witzke, killed in action on February 27,
Lee Ann Goff	Ruth Pritchard	
	Joy Ratcliff	

1991, in the State of Kuwait
Family of "G" Casto on the
occasion of her death.

Family of Madeline Phillips
on the occasion of her death
(Rob Hunt's aunt).

Prayers for our nation and our world through this time of uncertainty due to the Corona virus outbreak. 40,000 deaths a year from gun violence; global climate change; those who are struggling with the aftermath of natural disasters; all those who have lost someone to a drug overdose; all who struggle physically, spiritually, emotionally, financially or in their relationships; freedom and peace throughout the world; refugees and refugee families; all those whose lives are affected by violence wherever it occurs; Friends of Bluestone Camp and conference center's financial challenge.

Prayers for our Military

Brett Baker

Brent Bishop

Evan Chaney

Jeff Barker

Steve Cash

All who are serving, who have been injured and the families who have lost someone in combat; those who live and serve on the Korean Peninsula and other nations in that region of the world; our troops facing terrorist attacks.

Prayers for those in Senior Residential Centers - Cliff Asbury, Kanawha Place; Betty Berry, Edgewood Summit; Sam Ford, Charleston Transitional Care/Eastbrook; Barbara Shriver, Sweetbriar

Prayers for those at home - Reva Asbury, Jeanette Bates, Anne Copper, Bonnie Cheely, Anita McCormick, Anita Wehrmann

Prayer List for Churches -Bramwell Presbyterian Church; Clear Creek Presbyterian Church; Gilbert Presbyterian Church; Kihora Church (Kay HOR'Rah); Glakanja Parish (Gle-uh-KAH'juh)

Nurture Time

March 22: Read John 9:1-41 Activity: Take a little dirt in the palm of your hand; add water and make a muddy paste. Feel the grittiness, the glueyness, the griminess. This is the stuff of creation, according to Genesis. Questions: Jesus uses mud to heal the man born blind> Why? Why not just proclaim him healed.

