



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 15, 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

As you arrive for worship, greet each other with a smile and soft words, but please remember there are those who cherish a time of quiet before worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Fair—Jennie Auble

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Cheryl Mayhew, organist

“There Is a Green Hill Far Away”

Robert J. Hughes

LENTEN READING—WEEK 4

Lay Leader: Jake Light

L: Doubt. Is it doubt or skepticism that creates spiritual blindness? Oddly enough, there might be a little prejudice in the mix, too. Do we only look at the exterior of a person and disregard their inner spirit, their heart?

The story about David being chosen as king, in the book of 1 Samuel, has just that. Samuel was summoned by God to anoint the next King of Israel. Samuel was upset that God hadn’t chosen Saul and needed Samuel to go to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem to find the next king. It was clear that Samuel doubted God’s decision and was frightened for his life if Saul knew what God asked of him. (Do we question God’s decisions for our life when He calls us to do His bidding?)

Samuel did what God asked him to do and went to Bethlehem. One by one, Jesse’s seven sons appeared before Samuel, all handsome, and in Samuel’s opinion perfect candidates for king. All were unacceptable to God. It became obvious, God wasn’t judging mankind as we do. He pressed Samuel to ask Jesse if he had additional sons. Despite his skepticism, he asked, and yes, indeed, Jesse’s youngest son, David, was in the field tending the sheep. When brought forward, God told Samuel that David was his choice and once anointed, David was full of the spirit of God.

Likewise in the New Testament book of John, we read about Jesus’s encounter with a blind man. The disciples were judging this blind man because they thought his blindness was due to his sins or that of his parents. But Jesus saw the truth and cured the man of his blindness. Jesus was summoned by God to do God’s work on earth. But this miracle didn’t end there.

The news spread; neighbors doubted the healed man was actually the same man. The Pharisees got called to investigate because this miracle was performed on the Sabbath. They, too, were skeptical and approached his parents to identify him as their son. What did it take for the Pharisees to believe, not doubt, that this miracle maker was the Messiah? What does it take for us to believe? Why do we doubt when God’s hand has truly touched someone, even someone we thought was unholy?

EXTINGUISHING THE LENTEN CANDLE

L: We extinguish this fourth candle of Lent to acknowledge that we doubt our God and His power.

(extinguish candle)

† OPENING HYMN

“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above”

#476

† CALL TO CONFESSION

L: As beloved children, we know that God will forgive our sins as soon as we confess them.

**P: As far as the East is from the West, so God will remove our sins from us.**

L: With humble penitence and childlike trust, let us confess our sins as individuals and as a community of faith.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Loving Father, why is it so hard for us to believe in Your love for us? Forgive us for not loving those around us who we feel aren’t worthy. Help us to stop questioning or doubting Your plans for our lives. Remind us of Your will to redeem us and make us whole. Show us the way to You and how to be more loving Christians. Amen.

(Time for Silent Confession)

† WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Lord, doubting You and Your love for us will only lead to a confused life, one void of Your presence.

**P: We want to believe and want You in our lives.**

L: Let us take this time to acknowledge our love for God but our tendency to doubt His power in our lives.

**P: We want His love and to have His salvation.**

**All: In Jesus we are saved. Thanks be to God!**

† GLORIA PATRI

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Lenten Meditation”

Chancel Choir

(Jay Althouse)

SCRIPTURE FOR CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

John 6:5-13 (NIV)

Kristin Roe

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Feed the Fish”

Jennie Auble

Prayer

Debbie Wilson

All: Gracious God, like little fish set out to sea, we send these fish banks out to the homes of our young people. As they fill the banks with the gifts from their lives, fill their hearts and minds with a growing sense of your grace and love. As we watch the banks increase with our giving day by day and week by week, may we be inspired to see the world through new eyes. And as we share our gifts together, inspire us to join your faithful people in this community and around the world to bring about healing, hope and justice in your name. Amen.

(Children are dismissed to Sunday School)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD’S PRAYER

words on screen

(Please keep joys and concerns brief. This is time for prayer)

OFFERING

Offertory

“Jesus, Joy Of My Heart”

J.S. Bach

† Doxology

words on screen

† Prayer of Dedication

L: God of grace, you have gifted us with life in Christ. Today we bring the gifts of our work and the gifts of our hearts.

**P: May all that we bring and all that we are be your means of grace in the world, that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-3, 6-7, 10-13

Old Testament pgs. 259-260

New Testament Lesson: John 9:1-3, 6-9, 13-16, 18-21, 24-29, 34-38

New Testament pgs. 102-103

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

#324

SERMON

“Learning God’s Vision”

Pastor Ken Locke

† CLOSING HYMN

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

#411

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Andante E Maestoso”

P.I. Tschaikowski

†Please stand if you are able.

Join us in Fellowship Hall following the service for coffee and refreshments.

- \* Please sign and date the attendance pad.
- \* Be sure to silence your cell phones.
- \* We have a fully staffed Nursery available for newborn through 2 years old. Located in the upstairs hallway (nearest the back door), the 2nd door on the left. A changing table is available in the Nursery, as well.

MESSAGE NOTES