



First Sunday in Lent: Consciousness



Open Our Eyes, Lord
John 9:40



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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February 26, 2023

1st Sunday in Lent

Welcome

Prelude

In Unity, O Lord

George Blake

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

One: We have opened our eyes to the light of this new day,

Many: **To the beauty of Creation and the plants and creatures which God has made.**

One: We gather to sing praise to the Creator, who has made us all.

Many: **We come to see one another and to worship together.**

One: Look around, sisters and brothers. Find the image of God in the faces of the familiar and the stranger.

ALL: *Praise be to God, who loves and holds us all.*

* Opening Prayer

Creator God: We watch this morning for the Divine in every person, for your light dappled through all Creation. Make us conscious of your continuing creativity, give us grace to share the joy and pain of others, help us to see where we have fallen short of your will for us and for the world. Open our eyes, soften our hearts, strengthen our spirits through the example of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Hymn

Open the Eyes of My Heart

40 | VT

Verse:

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you, I want to see you. (Repeat)

Refrain:

*To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy. (Repeat)*

Coda:

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy,
holy, holy, holy, I want to see you. (Repeat)

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with our Children (after, children under 5 go to nursery care)

Song

Lord, I Need You

155 | VT

Lord, I Need You by Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher
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Verse 1:

Lord, I come, I confess.
Bowing here, I find my rest.
And without you, I fall apart.
You're the one that guides my heart.

*Refrain: Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.
Ev'ry hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness;
O God, how I need you.*

Verse 2:

Where sin runs deep, your grace is more.
Where grace is found is where you are.
And where you are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.

Refrain

Bridge:

So, teach my song to rise to you
when temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you.
Jesus, you're my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you.
Jesus, you're my hope and stay.

Refrain

Prayer of Confession

from Psalm 32 based on Psalms for Praying Nan C. Merrill 2007

Blessed are the people whose wrong-doings have been forgiven, and whose shame has been forgotten. When I kept silent and did not acknowledge my sin my guilt weighed heavy on my heart and my spirit became as dry as desert bones. Forgive us, God, for the times we have sinned against You and against others in our thoughts, words or deeds. God, be our guide when we are afraid to open our eyes and see where we are going, or what we have done. Take away our stubbornness and defensiveness; when we are paralyzed by fear may we be embraced by love. Let all who are faithful give thanks to the Lord, our Rock of wisdom and strength. God's steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music

Peace in This Land

Bob Yonker

Thoughts on Giving

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NRSV)

For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

Song

Open My Eyes That I May See

7 3 8 VT

Verse 1:

Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.

Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Verse 2:

Open my ears that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave notes fall on my ear,
ev'rything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Verse 3:

Open my mouth and let me bear
gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere.
Open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my mouth, illumine me, Spirit divine!

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 (NRSVUE)

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

The First Sin and Its Punishment

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The

woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Sermon

“Their Eyes Were Opened”

GO IN GOD’S NAME

* **Hymn** *What a Fellowship/Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* # 160 VT

Verse 1:

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning ^(on Jesus), *leaning* ^(on Jesus), *safe and secure from all alarms;*
leaning ^(on Jesus), *leaning* ^(on Jesus), *leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Verse 2:

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Verse 3:

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,

leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

*** Benediction**

Postlude

Though Your Sins Be As Scarlet

William Doane

*Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.
Though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

*Hear the voice that entreats you, O return ye unto God.
He is of great compassion and of wondrous love.*

*He'll forgive your transgressions and remember them no more.
"Look unto me, ye people," saith the Lord your God.*

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader	Alyce Newman
Children's Time	Sarah Hartman
Special Music	Ken Heatwole
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Pianist/Organist.....	Bob Phillips
Dir. of Tech & Media.....	Kevin Beers