



Fourth Sunday in Lent: Calling



Open Our Eyes, Lord
John 9:40



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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March 19, 2023

4th Sunday in Lent

Welcome

Prelude

And He Never Said a Word

Michael Ryan

Based on the hymn tunes PASSION CHORALE and SUFFERER

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

One: Sisters and brothers, be careful how you live. We are called to be wise, not unwise.

Many: **How can we know what is truthful and righteous and just?**

One: Jesus came into this world so that those who do not see might have their eyes opened.

Many: **Surely we are not blind, are we?**

One: We are called to confess our spiritual blindness so we can see God's will for us.

ALL: **OPEN OUR EYES, LORD. WE WANT TO SEE JESUS.**

* Opening Prayer

Loving God, We know that we see dimly, yet we long to know You and to be fully known. Jesus has called us to love others as we love ourselves, but it can be painful to see ourselves as we are. Call us to see and to value one another. Come to us with forgiveness and grace when we have fallen short. Restore us to the joy of your salvation and to a vision of life for all people. Amen.

* Opening Song

Open Our Eyes

Robert Cull

Open Our Eyes by Robert Cull

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O - pen our eyes, Lord, _____ we want to see Je -
O - pen our ears, Lord, _____ and help us to lis -

sus, _____ to reach out and touch him, _____ and
ten. _____ O - pen our eyes,

say that we love him. _____ Lord, _____ we

Repeat ending D.C. Song ending
want to see Je - sus. _____ sus. _____

WORDS: Bob Cull (John 12:21; Eph. 1:17-18)

MUSIC: Bub Cull

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OPEN OUR EYES

Irregular

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with our Children (after, children under 5 go to Nursery Care)

Scripture Reading

John 9:1-23 (CEB)

Jesus heals a blind man

9 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.

Disagreement about the healing

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.” 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.”

Conflict over the healing

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.”

Song

Lord, I Need You

155

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

based on Psalms for Praying Nan C. Merrill 2007

Beloved, you are our Shepherd. You lead us in paths of goodness and restore our souls. Help us to follow where you call us to go. For some of the sheep of your flock the shadow of death looms over ordinary activities that we may take for granted. May your rod and your staff protect us; We pray for a day when no one is afraid in their own neighborhood or home.

Forgive us when we have seen unfamiliar people as enemies. Let us fellowship together at a table where all are welcome and blessings are shared. May goodness and mercy pursue all who dwell in your house and take your teaching into their hearts.

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer (#989A) in unison

We end our prayer in the way Jesus taught us, praying...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us

from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

arr. Mark Hayes

Thoughts on Giving

1016

Jesus of love and leftovers, we struggle with what to share and how much is enough. Sometimes we are the disciples, quietly suggesting you send the needy crowds away. Sometimes we are the crowds, bringing only our desire to be close to you. When we have little, embolden us to share it. When we have nothing, welcome us to stay and eat. In giving and receiving, we participate in the miracle of enough. Thank you, Jesus.

* Song

My Jesus, I Love Thee

133

Verse 1:

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine.
For thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou.
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Verse 2:

I love thee, because thou hast first loved me,
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow.
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Verse 3:

In mansions of glory and endless delight
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright.
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow.
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

John 9:24-41 (CEB)

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.

Jesus finds the man born blind

³⁵ Jesus heard they had expelled the man born blind. Finding him, Jesus said, "Do you believe in the Human One?"

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.

Jesus teaches the Pharisees

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.

Sermon “The Sin of Doing Nothing!”

Call to Discipleship

One: I don’t see color!

Many: **That is not the goal. we see color and we honor you.**

One: I will be educated about your unique lived experiences.

Many: **We will work against the racism that harms you.**

One: I will do better.

Many: **We will do better.**

ALL: **THAT’S THE GOAL!**

GO IN GOD’S NAME

* **Closing Song**

Use Us, God

8 | 1

Verse 1:

Bless our eyes, Jesus Christ, open them to see your light.
Help us see the ways you’re working. Meet us where we are.

Refrain:

*Use us, God, as we go. Let us represent your love.
Even though we’re far from perfect, use us as we go.*

Verse 2:

Bless our ears, help us hear cries of those in doubt and fear.
Give us time to hear their stories, let us be your ears.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Bless our hands, God above, may they carry out your love.
May they reach to all our neighbors, reach to them in love.

Refrain

* **Benediction**

Postlude

The Light Of The World Is Jesus

Philip Bliss

*No darkness have we who in Jesus abide,
The light of the world is Jesus.
We walk in the light when we follow our guide,
The light of the world is Jesus.
Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee;
Sweetly the light has dawned on me.
Once I was blind, but now I can see:
The light of the world is Jesus.*

* Please stand as able and led



MinistersAll Members

Pastor David Whitten

Worship Leader..... Freda Wilkins

Children's TimeSarah Hartman

Prelude Our Handbell Choir, directed by Sarah Hartman
Alyce Newman, Ann Andrus, Barbara Beers, Carol Goss, David Whitten,
Gail Rhodes, Ken Heatwole, Kevin Beers, and Sandy Faw

FlautistSarah Hartman

Guitarist David Whitten

Pianist/Organist Bob Phillips

Dir. of Tech & MediaKevin Beers