

Worship March 19<sup>th</sup> 2023

Gathering Songs

(TFWS 2074) Shout to the Lord

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of your hands, forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like you. All of my days I want to praise  
the wonders of your mighty love. My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and  
strength. Let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of your hands, forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

(TFWS 2065) More Precious than Silver

Lord, you are more precious than silver.  
Lord, you are more costly than gold.  
Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds,  
and nothing I desire compares with you.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: On this Lenten journey, what does God's presence do in our midst?

**People respond: God opens us to recognize presence, sustenance, and abundance  
where the world perceives isolation and lack.**

Leader: Come let us worship God!

**People respond: We come to worship God**

## Hymn - #381 Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

<sup>1</sup> Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;  
In thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

<sup>2</sup> We are thine, thou dost befriend, us, be the guardian of our way;  
Keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

<sup>3</sup> Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.

<sup>4</sup> Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

### Prayer of the People

Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain, we would rather shut our eyes than see things as they really are. Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world, and give us the strength to bring your light. Help us see others as you see them, and forgive us when we do not trust you enough to open our eyes to the possibilities before us. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.

### Moment of Silence/Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

### Special Music - "Behold, How Good" by Michael John Trotta

Behold, how good, behold, how wonderful, behold, how pleasant to dwell in harmony.

Behold, how good, behold, how wonderful, behold, how pleasant to dwell in harmony.

Behold, how good, behold, how wonderful, behold, how pleasant for all of us to dwell in harmony, together all as one

From one, he made all nations to live on all the earth. In one we move and have our being, our life, our strength. Behold, behold, how good, behold, how wonderful, behold, how pleasant for all of us to dwell in harmony, together all as one. Behold, how good, behold, how wonderful, behold, how pleasant to dwell in harmony. Behold, how good. Behold.

Children's Moment

Offertory - "A Lenten Prayer" by Juliet Calkins

Doxology

Offertory Prayer

Generous God, you tenderly care for each person you have created. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to contribute to the work of your kingdom on earth until Christ returns in glory. Amen.

Scripture: John 9: 1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. 4 We[a] must work the works of him who sent me[b] while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." 10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." 13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. 17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" 20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, 21 but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus[c] to be the Messiah[d] would be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." 25 He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." 26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" 28 Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." 30 The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. 35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"[e] 36 He answered, "And who is he, sir?[f] Tell me, so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." 38 He said, "Lord,[g] I believe." And he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Message Encounters with Christ: The Man Born Blind

Hymn: Open Our Eyes

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him and say that we love him. Open our ears Lord and help us to listen. Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus.

Postlude - I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light