

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 23, 2025 at 10 am

*“I entered this world to render judgment—
to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.” (John 9:39)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Come, let us tell of the LORD's greatness;
Let us exalt his name together.

**Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy;
no shadow of shame will darken their faces.**

Taste and see that the LORD is good.
Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

**We will proclaim God's name to our brothers and sisters.
We will praise you, O God, among your assembled people.**

All who seek the LORD will praise him.
Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.

**The whole earth will acknowledge the LORD and return to him.
All the families of the nations will bow down before him.
For royal power belongs to the LORD.
He rules all the nations.**

As we worship together today,
let's prepare our hearts and minds, our attitudes and motivations,
to be ambassadors of Christ and a blessing to all those around us,
that they, too, might come to know and worship God.

Based on Psalm 34:3, 5, 8 and Psalm 22:22, 26-28.

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“OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART, LORD”

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You; I want to see You.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You; I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up,
Shinin' in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy:

Holy, holy, holy;
 We cry holy, holy, holy.
 You are holy, holy, holy,
 I want to see you.

*"Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord," by Paul Baloche
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"TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS"

O soul, are you weary and troubled,
 No light in the darkness you see?
 There's light for a look at the Savior,
 And life more abundant and free.

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus;
 Look full in his wonderful face.
 And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
 In the light of his glory and grace.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *and* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.

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HYMN #139: *COME THOU ALMIGHTY KING*

Come, Thou Almighty King,
 Help us Thy name to sing, Help us to praise:
 Father, all-glorious, O'er all victorious,
 Come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,
 Gird on Thy mighty sword, Our prayer attend:
 Come, and Thy people bless, And give Thy word success;
 Spirit of holiness, On us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter,
 Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour:
 Thou who almighty art, Now rule in every heart,
 And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To Thee, great One in Three,
 The highest praises be, Hence evermore!
 Thy sovereign majesty May we in glory see,
 And to eternity Love and adore.

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"Seeing the Light"*

John 9:1-41, 10:19-21 (*The Message*)

Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth.

²His disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?"

³Jesus said, “You’re asking the wrong question. You’re looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. ⁴We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. ⁵For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world’s Light.”

⁶He said this and then spit in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man’s eyes, ⁷and said, “Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam” (Siloam means “Sent”). The man went and washed—and saw.

⁸Soon the town was buzzing. His relatives and those who year after year had seen him as a blind man begging, were saying, “Why isn’t this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?”

⁹Others said, “It’s him all right!”

But others objected, “It’s not the same man at all. It just looks like him.”

He said, “It’s me, the very one.

¹⁰They said, “How did your eyes get opened?”

¹¹“A man named Jesus made a paste and rubbed it on my eyes and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ I did what he said. When I washed, I saw.”

¹²“So where is he?”

“I don’t know.”

¹³They marched the man to the Pharisees.

¹⁴This day when Jesus made the paste and healed his blindness was the Sabbath. ¹⁵The Pharisees grilled him again on how he had come to see. He said, “He put a clay paste on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “Obviously this man can’t be from God. He doesn’t keep the Sabbath.”

Others countered, “How can a bad man do miraculous, God-revealing things like this?” There was a split in their ranks.

¹⁷They came back at the blind man, “You’re the expert. He opened your eyes. What do you say about him?”

He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews didn’t believe it, didn’t believe the man was blind to begin with. So they called the parents of the man now bright-eyed with sight. ¹⁹They asked them, “Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? So how is it that he now sees?”

²⁰His parents said, “We know he is our son, and we know he was born blind. ²¹But we don’t know how he came to see—haven’t a clue about who opened his eyes. Why don’t you ask him? He’s a grown man and can speak for himself.” ²²(His parents were talking like this because they were intimidated by the Jewish leaders, who had already decided that anyone who took a stand that this was the Messiah would be kicked out of the meeting place. ²³That’s why his parents said, “Ask him. He’s a grown man.”)

²⁴They called the man back a second time—the man who had been blind—and told him, “Give credit to God. We know this man is an impostor.”

²⁵He replied, “I know nothing about that one way or the other. But I know one thing for sure: I was blind . . . I now see.

²⁶They said, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

²⁷“I’ve told you over and over and you haven’t listened. Why do you want to hear it again? Are you so eager to become his disciples [also]?”

²⁸With that they jumped all over him. “You might be a disciple of that man, but we’re disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know for sure that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this man even comes from.

³⁰The man replied, “This is amazing! You claim to know nothing about him, but the fact is, he opened my eyes! ³¹It’s well known that God isn’t at the beck and call of sinners, but listens carefully to anyone who lives in reverence and does his will. ³²That someone opened the eyes of a man born blind has never been heard of—ever. ³³If this man didn’t come from God, he wouldn’t be able to do anything.”

³⁴They said, “You’re nothing but dirt! How dare you take that tone with us!” Then they threw him out in the street.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and went and found him. He asked him, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶The man said, “Point him out to me, sir, so that I can believe in him.”

³⁷Jesus said, “You’re looking right at him. Don’t you recognize my voice?”

³⁸“Master, I believe,” the man said, and worshiped him.

³⁹Jesus then said, “I came into the world to bring everything into the clear light of day making all the distinctions clear, so that those who have never seen will see, and those who have made a great pretense of seeing will be exposed as blind.”

⁴⁰Some Pharisees overheard him and said, “Does that mean you’re calling us blind?”

⁴¹Jesus said, “If you were really blind, you would be blameless, but since you claim to see everything so well, you’re accountable for every fault and failure.

10 ¹⁹This kind of talk caused another split in the Jewish ranks. ²⁰A lot of them were saying, “He’s crazy, a maniac—out of his head completely Why bother listening to him?” ²¹But others weren’t so sure: “These aren’t the words of a crazy man. Can a ‘maniac’ open blind eyes?”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support our deacons’ provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.

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DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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MAY THE MIND OF CHRIST MY SAVIOR

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and pow'r controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His pow'r.

May the peace of God, my Father,
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea.
Him exalting, self abasing:
This is victory.

May we run the race before us,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As we onward go.

*"May The Mind of Christ My Savior," by Kate Barclay Wilkinson
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BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

CALENDAR

- TODAY** Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
- Tuesday, Mar. 25** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
- Wednesday, Mar. 26** Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Lenten Study: *Friendly Faith*
Coffee and Study (1:00 pm)
Soup and Study (6:00 pm)
- Saturday, Mar. 29** Feast for All (5:00–7:00)
- Sunday, Mar. 30** Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor)
Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Church Membership Informational Meeting (after service in parlor)
Sharing Table (before and after the service)

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