

*Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.*

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 19, 2023**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Silent Prayer of Preparation**

*Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## **Gathering Music**

### **The Gathering of God's People**

#### **Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship**

"Thy Word"

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Minute for Mission**

Blood Drive

Rhonda Miller

### **Introit**

"Psalm 26:1-3"

Leo Sowerby, 1962

Lord, speak for me, for I am yours,  
And test my mind and heart.  
I walk with steady trust in you,  
Nor from your ways depart.

### **\*Call to Worship (Psalm 23)**

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

People: **He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.**

**Leader:** He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**People:** **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and staff—they comfort me.**

**Leader:** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**People:** **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.**

**All:** **And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**\*Hymn**

“Be Thou My Vision”

#450

### **The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

**Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting others. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light, that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light, that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light, that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.** (Silent prayer of confession.)

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**Leader:** Amen. The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our lives. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**All:** **We will live as children of the light for Christ shines on us.**

**\*Response Hymn**

“Lord, Have Mercy”

#551

# Ministry of the Word

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Children's Sermon**

**First Scripture Reading**

John 9:1-41

**Choir Anthem** "Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice"

Robert Powell, 2010

Jesus makes my heart rejoice, I'm his lamb and know his voice.

He's my shepherd, gently guiding, in his pastures now abiding;

Constant love to me he shows, yes, my very name he knows.

Trusting in his path always, I go in and out with peace.

He will feed me with the treasure of his grace in richest measure,

When I thirst, to him I cry, living water he'll supply.

Shall I sing how blest I am, led by Jesus, as his lamb?

For when all my days are over, in the arms of my dear Savior,

Welcome will be my delight, joy forever in his sight.

**Second Scripture Reading**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Sermon** "Eenie Meenie Miney Mo"

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

## The Response to the Word

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

The Scots Confession (3.12)

**Our faith and its assurance do not proceed from flesh and blood, that is to say, from natural powers within us, but are the inspiration of the Holy Ghost; whom we confess to be God, equal with the Father and with his Son, who sanctifies us, and brings us into all truth by his own working, without whom we should remain forever enemies to God and ignorant of his Son, Christ Jesus. For by nature we are so dead, blind, and perverse, that neither can we feel when we are pricked, see the light when it shines, nor assent to the will of God when it is revealed, unless the Spirit of the Lord Jesus quicken that which is dead, remove the darkness from our minds, and bow our stubborn hearts to the obedience of his blessed will.**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Invitation to Offering**

**\*Response**

“We Lift Our Voices”

#710

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**The Sending of God’s People**

**\*Closing Hymn** “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

#649

**\*Charge and Blessing**

**\*Congregational Response**

“We Are the Church”

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!

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**\*Postlude** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" arr. John A. Behnke

**Pastors:** Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood  
Steve Watters

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd

**Organist:** Carol Welk

**Liturgist:** Carole Sue Ames

**Acolyte:** Devin Griggs, Darren Cox

Carole Sue Ames is a lifelong resident of this area. She grew up in Lafayette and attended the Methodist Church. When she moved into London at the age of 15, she began to attend the First

Presbyterian Church when it was located on Walnut Street. That was about 1952. She loves her church family dearly and following the path that God has laid out for her.

Carole married Bill Ames in 1956, and they had 5 sons. They enjoyed being involved with their children in school and sports. Bill & Carol have 18 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren with another one on the way. Bill went to be with the Lord in 1998.

Carole enjoyed tennis and softball in her younger years. Today, she enjoys swimming and golfing. She loves to travel whenever possible, and has been active in our church choir since 1970.