

Grove Presbyterian Church

Service of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Lent

10:15 AM

March 26 , 2017

--Ready for the Word --

Announcements and Welcome

Musical Prelude by Bliss; arranged by Hayes

“The Light of the World is Jesus”

Invitation to Worship

*God sends the light of the world into our midst
to bless the humble and judge the proud,*

**People: That those who see might become sightless
and that the sightless might see.**

*God sends the light of the world into our midst
To debase the exalted and to exalt the debased,*

**People: That those who see might become sightless,
And that the sightless might see.**

*God sends the light of the world into our midst
to reveal the sin of the saints and to give hope to the sinners.*

**ALL: Let your light illumine us O Lord that we may see
ourselves with your eyes. If we cannot see your
goodness for ours, reveal to us our blindness. If we
cannot see our goodness for yours, bless our sight.**

Prayer of Invocation

*People: Giver of light, we come here today, seeking the way out of
our darkness. O Healer of the blind, let us feel the touch of your
clay upon our eyes. Then we, too, shall bathe in Siloam's waters.
We shall wash and return seeing, our sight restored. Your light
shall burn within us, O God, and our neighbors shall behold the
light of the world. Amen.*

Choral Beginning by Binion

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*We Sing Together Hymnbook No. 485

“To God Be the Glory”

-- Receiving the Word --

Passing of the Peace and Children's Story

*Song of Praise

Hymnbook No. 341

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!”

Prayer for Understanding

A Reading from Psalms (page 501)

Psalms 23

New Testament Lesson (page 102)

John 9: 1-41

Reflection

“How Is Your Sight?”

Musical Offering

from Liturgy of St. James, 4th century

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Prayer of Confession

Take a moment to reflect on times you may have been blind to
the sin that cuts you off from knowing God. (Silence is kept.)

Let us pray

*Gracious Lord, the disciples asked whose sin caused the blindness
of the man born blind. You replied that it was so that the work of
God might be made manifest in his life, and you healed him.
Lord, that man had no choice about his blindness. But we are
aware that we do have a choice, and that as with the man born
blind you offer to touch our lives so that your work might be
made manifest in our lives and through our lives.*

**People: Gracious Lord we confess, there are times when
we choose to reject the gift of your sight, times when we
prefer to close our eyes rather than to see clearly.**

When selfishness blinds us to the needs of others;

People: Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.

When our insensitivity blinds us to the hurt we cause others;

*or when our prejudices blind us to the equal dignity and worth of
others;*

People: Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.

*When our pride blinds us to our own faults, and when the lure of
materialism blinds us to the poverty of others,*

People: Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.

**Loving God, Lord Jesus, Light of the world, help us to
walk in your light and see as you desire that we see.**

**Help us and help all of your church to show forth the
works of righteousness that you desire to work in us
and through us.**

Words of Assurance

Behold and believe in the wondrous power and love of God!

It is poured out for you and for God's beloved world.

Rejoice in this good news, for it is given especially to you. Amen.

*Response Songbook No. 11

“Change My Heart, O God”

-- Responding to the Word --

Offertory African-American spiritual

“Kum Ba Yah”

Prayers of the People and 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, for ever. Amen.

*Hymn of Commitment Bulletin insert

“Praise Him! Praise Him!”

*Blessing

*Choral Benediction by Van Grieken

“May God Bless You”

*Musical Postlude by Ashford

“Postlude in C”

***Please rise as able**

Participants in today's service include: Kessey Kieselhorst (worship leader), Senior Choir (choral beginning, benediction), Women's Choir (musical offering), Joy Christian (organist), Rev. Penny Dollar (reflection). Reflection for next week: *“Mixing Ingredients.”*