



**The Presbyterian Church  
in Morristown**

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**March 22, 2020**  
*The Fourth Sunday in Lent*

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**Celebration of Worship**

- \* Call to Worship** (*responsively*) The Reverend Dr. David Smazik
- One: Lord Christ, open our eyes
- Many: to see clearly the light of the world.**
- One: Holy Spirit, illumine our minds
- Many: to perceive God's glory shining among us.**
- One: Almighty God, prepare our hearts
- Many: to see, to trust, to worship the Messiah.**

- \* Hymn 12** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise *St. Denio*

**Confession and Pardon** The Reverend Sarah Green

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Wonder-working God, forgive us when preconceived notions cloud our vision and blind us to your activity in our lives. We watch for signs of your glory in the successful and strong, in pious acts and answered prayers, in favorable outcomes and dreams fulfilled. But you make yourself known in unexpected ways: in shepherd boys lifted to the throne and outcasts returned to community; in death haunted valleys transformed by your presence, and ordinary pools made extraordinary by your grace, through water and mud, and a table prepared with sacrificial love. We long for salve that relieves our stubborn focus on inconsequential questions, and for water that heals our blindness to revelations of your love. Open our

- \* Please rise in body or in spirit.**

eyes, illumine our minds, and prepare our hearts, to receive your amazing grace. Amen.

### Silent Prayer

#### Assurance of Pardon *(responsively)*

One: The Good News to us is that our sins are forgiven.

Many: **We are God's children, members of one body.**

One: We have been brought into new life.

Many: **Our sins are forgiven.**

### A Time for Young Christians

Alexandra Mead

#### Prayer for Illumination *(unison)*

Patrick Allred

**Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

#### Scripture Reading:

John 9:1-12; 18-34

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 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, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 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?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 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 asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 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." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 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." He answered, "I do not know whether he

is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 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?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** Stories of the Beloved Community – Man Born Blind Rev. Dr. Smazik

**Hymn 377** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light *Houston*

## Prayers of the People

### 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.**

**Solo** True Colors  
Ignacio Angulo-Pizarro, soloist; Marie Trudeau, oboe

### \* **Benediction**

Today’s service is led by the Reverend Dr. David Smazik and the Reverend Sarah Green, Dr. Matthew Webb, Alexandra Mead, and Patrick Allred. Thank you to Jenny Tooley, Sheldon Rajkumar, and Bruce Frazier for their assistance.



***The Presbyterian Church in Morristown***

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