



*Welcome to*  
**Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Portage, Michigan**

March 19, 2023  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE "Fanfare on "Ellacombe" arr. by Lani Smith

WELCOME

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION "Open My Eyes, That I May See" arr. by Michael Wilson

*You may come up to light a candle to represent the prayer you bring today.*

INTROIT "I Will Sing of the Mercies" #75 (Lift Up Your Hearts)

***I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing.***

***I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,***

***I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.***

***With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness, your faithfulness;***

***With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.***

***I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,***

***I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.***

CALL TO WORSHIP

(written by Beth Merrill Neel)

This is God's day, and we are invited to be a part of it.

**This is God's invitation: to come and see what God is doing in the world.**

This is what God is doing: bringing good news to the poor,

**And proclaiming release to the captives,**

Recovering sight for those who are blind

**And letting the oppressed go free.**

Let us join in, and let us worship God.

\*HYMN "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #466 (Hymnal)

***O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace.***

***Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrow cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.***

***Christ breaks the power of reigning sin, and sets the prisoner free;  
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean, Christ's blood availed for me.***

***My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(adapted from a prayer by Beth Merrill Neel)

**Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives:  
the fears that stifle us, the prejudice that blinds us, the ignorance that hobbles  
us, the doubt that plagues us.**

**Help us, we pray, to find courage in unlikely places, see the world with new and  
gracious eyes, move to those places where love is needed,  
and trust that you are with us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed.

**Thanks be to God.**

So then trusting as the Spirit leads us, let us walk as children of light.

RESPONSE

"Glory to God"

Paul Vasile, used by permission

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, Amen.  
World without end, without end, Amen. World without end, without end, Amen.  
World without end, without end, Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-17

ANTHEM

"A Channel of Your Peace"

by Gregg Sewell

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 9:18-41 Ephesians 5:8

SERMON

"Walking in the Light"

Pastor Jerry

HYMN

"Live Into Hope"

#332 (Hymnal)

*Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!  
Live into hope the blind shall see with insight and with clarity,  
Removing shades of pride and fear – a vision of our God brought near.  
Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,  
The right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.  
Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.*

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Valerie Glasscock, Don Taylor, Karen & Tom VerHage, Alissa & Nolan Worstell

PROMISES

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER

WELCOME

... We are grateful that God has called our sisters and brothers to serve Christ in the world and with us.

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in Christ.**

HYMN

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

#438(Hymnal)

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.  
Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.  
We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.  
From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.*

## PRAYER

### 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**

### \*SONG

**"Siyamhamba"**

#2235b ([Sing the Faith](#))

***Siyahamb'e, kukha nyen' kwen khos, Siyahamb'e, kukha nyen' kwen khos.  
Siyahamb'e kukha nyen' kwen khos, Siyahamb'e, kukha nyen' kwen khos.  
Siyahamb'e, hamba, siyahamb'e, ooo, Siyahamb'e kukha nyen kwen khos.***

***We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, marching, we are marching, ooo,  
We are marching in the light of God.***

### \*BLESSING

### POSTLUDE

**"I Know Whom I Have Believed"**

by Ruth Elaine Schram