

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

**March 19, 2023
10:00am**

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

GATHERING

PRESERVICE MUSIC

*“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”
“Open My Eyes, That I May See”
“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”
“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”
“Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”
“Jesus, Savior, Lord, Now to You I Come”
“Amazing Grace”
“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF PRAYER REQUESTS

CHIMES

(The pouring of water invites us to remember and to celebrate our baptism into the body of Christ.)

PRELUDE

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” (Shelley)

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Please exchange these words with your immediate neighbors: “The peace of the Lord be with you.” “And also with you.”

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 Samuel 16:7, John 9:5, Ephesians 5:8-9

God does not see as mortals see. We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

Once we lived in darkness, but now—as children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.

Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

Let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN #187**

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” (Bradbury)

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see? Bring us again and again into your light until your ways become visible to us, and bear fruit in us. Touch us so that we are utterly changed, a “before” and “after,” a “now” and “then”; that we may also say, “One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. In Christ’s light, we pray. **Amen.**

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

“Glory Be to the Father” (Greatorex)

CALL TO CONFESSION

As children of God’s light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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 judgement on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. 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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The psalmist assures us that God’s goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God’s forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ. Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Christ’s name we pray. **Amen.**

MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Dietta Hitchcock

READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalm 23

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Ephesians 5:8-14

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Still, Small Voice” (Nolan) (Choir Ensemble)

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospels if you are able)

***READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

John 9:1-41

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

***HYMN #649**

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

(verses 1, 2, & 5) (Columbian Harmony)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(From the Confession of St. Patrick, 5th Century)

There is no other God, and there never was another, nor will there be any after him except God the Father, without beginning. From him is all beginning. He upholds all things. And his Son Jesus Christ whom together with the Father we testify to have always existed. Before the beginning of the world, he was spiritually present with the Father. Begotten in an indescribable manner before all beginning. By him all things visible and invisible were made. He was made human and, having overcome death was received into heaven to the Father. And the Father has bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and God. In him we believe, and we await his coming who before long shall judge the living and dead. He will render to everyone according to his deeds, and has poured out abundantly on us the gift of the Holy Spirit, even the pledge of immortality, who makes those that believe and obey to be the sons of God the Father and joint-heirs with Christ. Him we confess and adore—one God in the Trinity of the sacred name. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. Sharing what we have so abundantly received, we bring now our tithes and offerings to God, with gladness and gratitude.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Where He Leads Me” (Paxton)

*DOXOLOGY #606

Genevan Psalter

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

In gratitude, O God, we come to your table, into your presence, into your house. For all that you have done for us, most especially for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise. We long to live as children of light, doing what is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light through Jesus Christ, who awakens those who sleep, and raises those who are dead to new life. In his name we pray. Amen.

*OUR 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 and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN #203

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”
(Ghanaian Folk Melody) (March Hymn of the Month)

*MOMENT OF SILENCE TO PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

“Blessed Assurance”

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.
Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.

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