



*An Open & Affirming, Creation Justice  
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

19 March 2023 – 10:30 AM  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

**\*indicates the congregation is invited to stand.  
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.**

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PRELUDE      *Prelude on A Plainsong Melody* (R. Hays) and *Amazing Grace* (J. Beck)  
Vlada Volkova-Moran, organist

WELCOME      The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

\*GATHERING SONG      Navajo Traditional

**Now I walk in beauty.  
Beauty is before me.  
Beauty is behind me, above and below me.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP      Maryse Postlewaite, liturgist

One: People of God, look and see the faces of those we know and love:

**All: Neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers, a community of kindred hearts.**

One: People of God, look and see the faces of those we hardly know:

**All: Strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, seekers who yearn for fellowship in  
God's beauty, truth, and peace.**

One: People of God, look and see how God is present in this place.

**All: In you, in me, in each one of us, God's spirit shines for all to see. Let us  
worship God together, and serve God in the world, following the way of Christ.**

\*HYMN 8 [hymn sheet]      *Praise to the Living God*      DIADEMATA

\*PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS

**Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:**

**May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.**

**May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.**

**And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.**

**Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.**

\*GREETING OF PEACE

ANTHEM      "Blessed Are All They That Fear Him" from *Elijah*      Felix Mendelssohn  
Chancel Choir • Cheryl Anderson, director

SCRIPTURE      *John 9:1-25*      Maryse Postlewaite

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 neighbours 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 washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 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 [authorities] [who] 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.'

SERMON

*Here's Mud In Your Eye!*

Pastor Dave

MEDITATION

Songs & Prayers from Taizé

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting.**

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.**

**Nada te turbe, nada te espante. Quien a Dios tiene nada le falta.**

**Nada te turbe, nada te espante. Solo Dios basta.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY

Invitation

[www.PeaceUnited.org/Giving](http://www.PeaceUnited.org/Giving)

Offertory Music

*Order My Steps*

Glenn Burleigh

\*COVENANT

**We covenant with God and with each other:**

**to walk together in all God's ways as the Holy is revealed to us;**

**to give ourselves freely and without reserve to Jesus' ministry in this church;**

**to celebrate through worship God's amazing gifts of unity and diversity;**

**to take up Christ's mission around the world, striving for justice and peace;**

**to care for the earth and all her creatures, reconciling ourselves to them in love;**

**for God gives immeasurable grace into all life and every life.**

\*HYMN 547 [hymn sheet]

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

AMAZING GRACE

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

Calvin Taylor