

An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All
 Congregation of the United Church of Christ

15 March 2026 – 10:30 AM
Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDE *Rise!* Herb Alpert
 JAZZ ON HIGH • Aidan Santa Cruz, piano & vocals; Chris Charman, bass; Zack Olsen, drums

WELCOME The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

*GATHERING SONG 1) in unison 2) repeated as a round Navajo Traditional

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP Melodee Kistner, 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 293 [hymn sheet] *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

*PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND RENEWAL

One: Where we have seen pain without being moved, smothered your love with solemn pride, resigned to injustice and forsaken righteousness...
All: Lord, have mercy.
 One: Where we have spoken of love more than we have shared it, claimed faith without the discipline of living by your word, pointed the finger of blame while ignoring our own sin...
All: Christ, have mercy.
 One: For false comforts in the face of suffering, for excuses in the face of misery...
All: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy upon us.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*GREETING OF PEACE

ANTHEM *Beautiful Light* Laurie Berkner

GOSPEL *John 9:1-25* Melodee Kistner

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

Whatchu lookin' at?

Pastor Dave

RESPONSE

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

...concluding with *A 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.**

OFFERTORY

My Shining Hour



Harold Arlan

*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

You Are The Sunshine of My Life

Stevie Wonder

Slowly

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know that Spir - it's full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

to Refrain

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to stay with Je - sus all the way."

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill - ing us with your love; And for these bless - ings we

lift our hearts in praise. With - out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

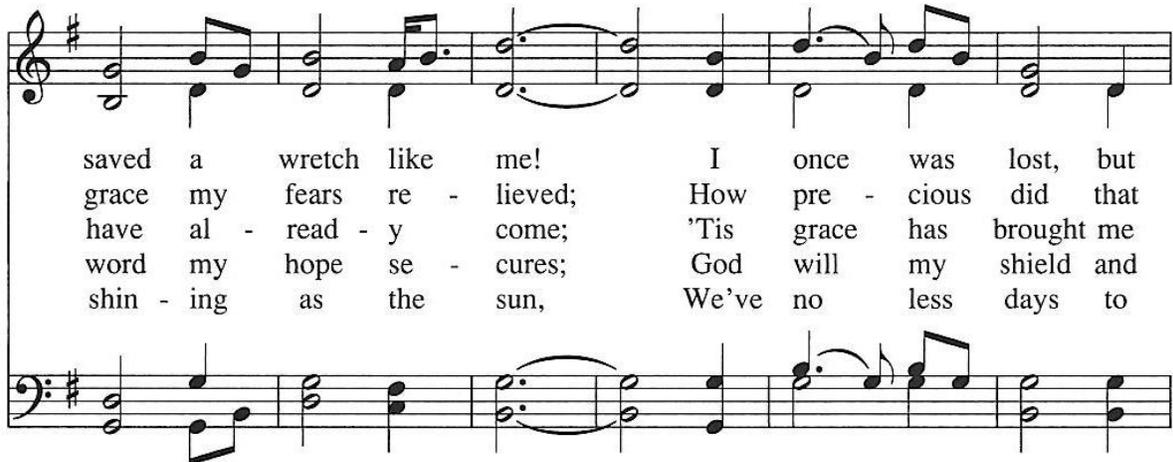
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St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

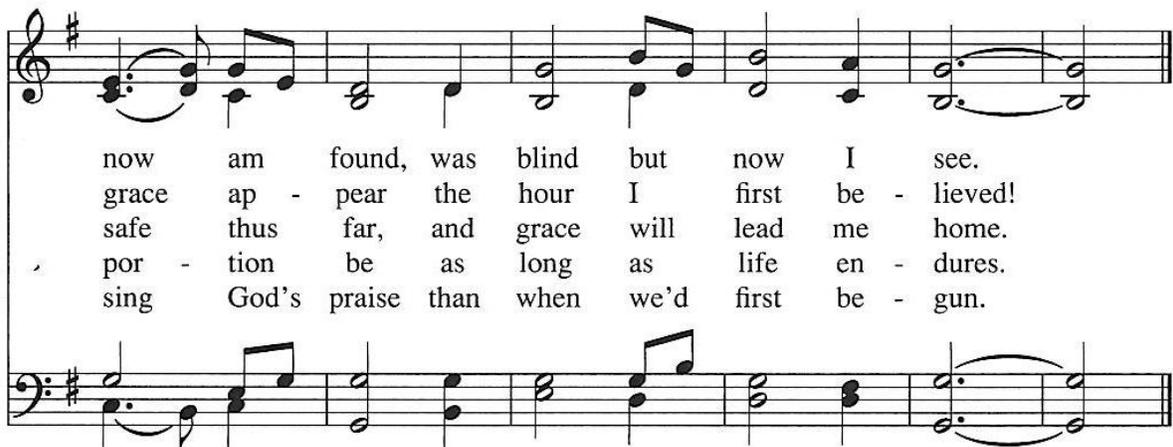
St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 (NEW BRITAIN)
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900