

March 19, 2023

Morning Worship  
*Fourth Sunday in Lent*  
Slackwood Presbyterian Church

10:30 a.m.

## GATHER TO WORSHIP

*As a consideration to all who seek to worship this morning, please turn off or mute cell phones and other electronic devices.*

Bell of Invitation  
Welcome & Announcements

## OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Call to Worship

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

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

Leader: Once we lived in darkness, but now –  
As children of light, we are called  
to what is good and right and true.

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

\*Hymn #744 “Arise, Your Light is Come!” FESTAL SONG

\*Call to Confession

\*Congregational Refrain: (#577) **Kyrie eleison.** (Lord, have mercy.)

\*Prayer of Confession (*In Unison*)

**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 judgment 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.** (*moment of silent prayer*)

\*Congregational Refrain: (#577) **Kyrie eleison.** (Lord, have mercy.)

\*Words of Assurance

\*Gloria Patri (#581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

*(Following the time of confession, young people ages 3 to 10 may leave for a time of lesson and activity.)*

## HEARING OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading – Psalm 23

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem “Amazing Grace” arr. R. Mohlman

Gospel Reading – John 9:1-41

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “Corrected Vision” Rev. David Bowman

\*Affirmation of Faith. (*from The Brief Statement of Faith*)

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

(#471) Sung Prayer

Oh Lord, hear my prayer, oh Lord, hear my prayer.  
When I call, answer me.  
Oh Lord, hear my prayer, oh Lord, hear my prayer.  
Come and listen to me.

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.**

(#471) Sung Prayer

Oh Lord, hear my prayer, oh Lord, hear my prayer.  
When I call, answer me.  
Oh Lord, hear my prayer, oh Lord, hear my prayer.  
Come and listen to me.

Call for Offering & Offertory

\*Doxology (#606)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn #795

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

"Healer of Our Every Ill"

\*Charge and Benediction

**DEPART TO SERVE**

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

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**Christ's Ministers in the World:** All members of the church

**Interim Pastor:** The Rev. David Bowman

**Parish Associate:** The Rev. James Klotz

**Director of Music:** Dr. Shelley Sanders Zuckerman

**Director of Family Ministries:** Starr Alleyne

**Liturgist:** Andrea Moore

**Welcome** to everyone who is worshipping this morning. If you are visiting, we hope you will feel very welcome.

**Pastor Bowman's contact information:**

Email: dfbsbv@gmail.com or Telephone: 732.547.3480

The **Adult Forum** meets every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. The link is sent in the Saturday announcements email. If you are not receiving that email, speak to Carol Belles.

The **Youth Group** meets at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday.

The **Choir** rehearses at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday.

The **Board of Deacons** will meet at 12:00 p.m. today.

The **Lenten Study Group** will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 23 via Zoom.

The **Worship Committee** will meet following worship next Sunday, March 26.

To **order flowers for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday**, see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in fellowship hall or contact Susan Gibbs.

**Those people remembered in the morning prayer last week are:**  
Penn State Mens Basketball, Kyle, new jobs, Rick, Jeremy, Ryan, Daniel, Scott, Steven, Shawn, Kate, Catharine, Carrie, Liz, Matthew,

Kim, Faith, Jill, Delores, Laura, Vince, Ebbie, Judy, Nona, Bob, Jack, Beth, Arlene, Marilyn, Mylan, Leila, Rachel, Richard's family, Jean, Kate, Emma & JD.

During Lent and on Easter the church receives the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**. This offering benefits the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self Development of People. Please consider giving generously. You will find an envelope in your box of offering envelopes.

### QUESTIONS TO PONDER DURING LENT

- What are the painful and wounded places in me that cause me to act out in ways that are not good for me or others?
- What are the buttons in me that get so easily pushed, that cause me to react with words or actions that I really do not want to say or do?
- What are the ways in which I have contributed to the pain of the world, and how might I now begin contributing to the healing of the world?
- In what ways have I knowingly or through fear lived a life less than who God knows me to be?
- When and where have I fallen short and missed the mark?
- What are the patterns and habits that direct and control my life?
- What possesses me?
- Do I truly believe I am God's beloved son or daughter? If so, how do I live that? If not, why not?
- In what ways am I living an authentic life and in what ways am I not?
- Where is your Epiphany Star Word leading you?
- What are you learning about yourself?
- What do you need from God?