

**The First Presbyterian Church of Dutch Neck
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Sunday March 22, 2020 9:30AM**

THE GATHERING

Prelude God of Great and God of Small

Call to Worship

Lord Christ, open our eyes
to see clearly the light of the world.
Holy Spirit, illumine our minds
to perceive God's glory shining among us.
Loving god, prepare our hearts
to see, to trust, to worship the Messiah.

*Hymn God of Great and God of Small GTG 19

**God of great and God of small,
God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong,
God to whom all things belong,
alleluia, alleluia,
praise be to your name.**

**God of land and sky and sea,
God of life and destiny,
God of never-ending power,
yet beside me every hour,
alleluia, alleluia,
praise be to your name.**

**God of silence, God of sound,
God by whom the lost are found,
God of day and darkest night,
God whose love turns wrong to right,
alleluia, alleluia,
praise be to your name.**

**God of heaven and God of earth,
God of death and God of birth,
God of now and days before,
God who reigns forevermore,
 alleluia, alleluia,
 praise be to your name.**

Invitation to God's Love: Prayer of Transformation

**Wonder-working God,
forgive us when preconceived notions
cloud our vision and blind us
to your activity in our lives.**

**We watch for signs of your glory
in the successful and strong,
in pious acts and answered prayers,
in favorable outcomes and dreams fulfilled.**

**But you make yourself known in unexpected ways:
in a shepherd child lifted to the throne
and outcasts returned to community;
in death-haunted valleys transformed by your presence,
and ordinary pools made extraordinary by your grace,
through water and mud.**

**We long for water that heals our blindness
to revelations of your love.
Therefore, open our eyes,
illumine our minds,
and prepare our hearts,
to receive your amazing grace.**

Silence for Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share the good, as we wave to our neighbor and share with each other:

The peace of Christ be with you!

Learning Time for the Young of All Ages

The Appelget Family

Ministry of Hospitality and Welcome

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Reading

John 9:1-22

Jon Rodriguez

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 6 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, 7 saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” 9 Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” 10 But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” 11 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.” 12 They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 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.” 16 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. 17 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.”

18 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 19 and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” 20 His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 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.” 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

Leader: This is the Word for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Seeing God"

Jon Rodriguez

Musical meditation

Open My Eyes, That I May See

THE THANKSGIVING

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

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 sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Presentation of Gifts

Although we cannot pass the collection plate, donations and pledges can be mailed to the office. If you wish to donate online, that option is available on our website via the “Donate” button or use <https://tinyurl.com/DNPCdonate> .

*We continue to pay our staff and support our mission during this time.
Carl Stillwell and Terri DeVincenzo, co-chairs Stewardship and Finance*

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

* Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

*Hymn

Great is Thy Faithfulness

GTG 39

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
(Refrain)**

* Benediction

Time for Virtual Fellowship

Flowers today Given by Kevin and Gerry Mackenzie
in loving memory of their parents Ed and Lois Jacobs and Joe and Sheila Mackenzie

