Worship service (live-streamed), 3/22/20

0pening music: find something to live-stream

OPENING SENTENCES

﻿God does not see as mortals see. **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!**

Song: “Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord”

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

﻿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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (leave time for silent reflection)

﻿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. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone, and a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Letter from Thea
* Update on closure: no groups meeting in building, no open gym; planning to re-open when CDC says the virus is contained
* Worship will continue online between now and then; Sunday school being done remotely
* Offering can be done electronically, mailed in, or brought by individually

TIME FOR HEARING THE WORD

* Scriptures: Psalm 23, John 9:1-43
* Sermon

Song: “Be Thou My Vision”

PRAYER

* Read any requests I already have/things that have been sent in/etc.
* Invite people to share during/before/after/etc.

Litany (the response is “Lamb of God, have mercy on us.”)

Lord Jesus Christ, you are always faithful, even when we betray you. **Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you claim us as your own, even when we deny you. **Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you clothe us in your righteousness, even when we give you a crown of thorns. **Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you bless us with your word, even when we mock and curse you. **Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you reach out to us in love, even when we reject and despise you. **Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you pour out your grace on us, even when we give you sour wine. **Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you give your life to save us, even when we crucify you. **Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

Holy God, when Jesus cried and breathed his last you tore away the ancient curtain between heaven and earth, between life and death. As we turn to face the cross, show us Jesus, in his suffering and in his glory, so that we may have eternal life; through Christ, your Son, our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying, “our Father…” Amen.

Closing song: “Amazing Grace”

BENEDICTION

﻿Go peaceably, looking upon the hearts of others. Live in Christ’s light, even in the darkest valley. ﻿Trust that he is able to open your eyes, enabling you to walk by faith in his name. ﻿May the love of God pursue you, the light of Christ enfold you, and the Holy Spirit keep you; as you dwell in the house of the Lord your whole life long.

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

Closing song: “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”