



Immanuel Presbyterian Church

8:30am Alternative Worship Service

4th Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

*Discovering and displaying Christ
in here and out there*

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY

(*Please stand as you are able)

Welcome and Community Life

Prayer of Adoration

*Song

In the Light

DC Talk

*Call to Worship

Psalms 23

One: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

All: **he makes me lie down in green pastures.**

One: He leads me beside still waters;

All: **he restores my soul.**

One: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

All: **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

One: I fear no evil; for thou art with me;

All: **thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**

One: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

All: **thou anointest my head with oil,**

One: my cup overflows.

All: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;**

One: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*Song

Here I Am to Worship

Hughes

Experiential Confession

You are invited to go up to one of our Mud Stations around the sanctuary. As you touch the mud, reflect on God's forgiveness. Give thanks that God can even redeem our mud to bring healing and clarity in our lives. As you wipe off your hands with the wet wipes, rejoice that you are washed clean in God's sight through Christ Jesus.

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

John 9: 1 - 41 NRSVue

¹ 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 he." 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." 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^[c] to be the Messiah^[d] would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴ 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." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my

eyes.³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

One: The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of God endures forever.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

An Eye Opening Miracle

Rev. John C. Tittle

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Here Comes the Sun

The Beatles

Prayers of the People

One: Jesus, light of the world,

All: Scatter the darkness from our hearts and minds.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

*Closing Song

I Saw the Light

Hank Williams, Sr.

*Charge and Benediction

Participants:

Rev. Dr. John Tittle, Pastor

Clay Whittington, Director of Music Ministries

Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation

Kevin Murphy, lay reader

Ed Vander Woude, audio visual

Adoración Ensemble – George Davis, Joy Hager, Sandy Russell, Christina Russell, Clay Whittington, Bob and Carol Van Gelder

Acknowledgments:

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Bulletin Art: Mid-12th-century mural from the Hermitage of San Baudelio de Berlanga (Soria), and now housed in the Cloisters Museum in New York.



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