

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – March 19, 2023 – 10:30am

## **Order of Worship**

### **The Community Gathers**

Lighting of Altar Candles

Gathering Music -

A Word of Greeting and Welcome/Centering Words ~

Minister Ainise Isama'u

Be Thou our vision, O God. Be our eyes. Be our hearts. Be the grace that flows through our lives. Only with your eyes can we see rightly.

Opening Hymn\* - *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"* (UMH 140)

Roger Butcher (organist)

### **Giving God Glory As We Come To Worship**

**Call to Worship (L: Leader P: People)-**

Jason Sasaki

L: Dawn is breaking. Christ's light is shining.

**P: The Light of the world shines in our lives.**

L: Put aside the cares of the night.

**P: In the Lord, we live in the light.**

L: Even in the darkest valley, God Illuminates our path.

**P: Even in times of despair, hope shines forth.**

L: Sleeper, awake! Christ's light is shining.

**P: The Light of the world shines in our lives.**

**Opening Prayer**

Jason Sasaki

Light of all lights, be our vision this day. Open our eyes to behold your glory. Open our hearts to the warmth of your love. Open our minds to the flame of your truth. Open our souls to the glory of living as children of light, that others may see in our living the sacred mystery of your kingdom. Amen.

Message for the Children (In Us All)

Minister Ainise Isama'u

### **The Word of God for the people of God**

Congregational Hymn – *"Open My Eyes, That I May See"* (UMH 454) Roger Butcher (organist)

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?"

<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's mighty works might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>While it's daytime, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>After he said this, he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on the man's eyes. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (this word means *sent*). So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see.

### **Disagreement about the healing**

<sup>8</sup>The man's neighbors and those who used to see him when he was a beggar said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?"

<sup>9</sup>Some said, "It is," and others said, "No, it's someone who looks like him."

But the man said, "Yes, it's me!"

<sup>10</sup>So they asked him, "How are you now able to see?"

<sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man they call Jesus made mud, smeared it on my eyes, and said, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and then I could see."

<sup>12</sup>They asked, "Where is this man?"

He replied, "I don't know."

<sup>13</sup>Then they led the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. <sup>14</sup>Now Jesus made the mud and smeared it on the man's eyes on a Sabbath day. <sup>15</sup>So Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.

The man told them, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and now I see."

<sup>16</sup>Some Pharisees said, "This man isn't from God, because he breaks the Sabbath law." Others said, "How can a sinner do miraculous signs like these?" So they were divided. <sup>17</sup>Some of the Pharisees questioned the man who had been born blind again: "What do you have to say about him, since he healed your eyes?"

He replied, "He's a prophet."

### **Conflict over the healing**

<sup>18</sup>The Jewish leaders didn't believe the man had been blind and received his sight until they called for his parents. <sup>19</sup>The Jewish leaders asked them, "Is this your son? Are you saying he was born blind? How can he now see?"

<sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know he is our son. We know he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But we don't know how he now sees, and we don't know who healed his eyes. Ask him. He's old enough to speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they feared the Jewish authorities. This is because the Jewish authorities had already decided that whoever confessed Jesus to be the Christ would be expelled from the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>That's why his parents said, "He's old enough. Ask him."

<sup>24</sup>Therefore, they called a second time for the man who had been born blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know this man is a sinner."

<sup>25</sup> The man answered, “I don’t know whether he’s a sinner. Here’s what I do know: I was blind and now I see.”

<sup>26</sup> They questioned him: “What did he do to you? How did he heal your eyes?”

<sup>27</sup> He replied, “I already told you, and you didn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

<sup>28</sup> They insulted him: “You are his disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples. <sup>29</sup>We know that God spoke to Moses, but we don’t know where this man is from.”

<sup>30</sup> The man answered, “This is incredible! You don’t know where he is from, yet he healed my eyes!<sup>31</sup>We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners. God listens to anyone who is devout and does God’s will.<sup>32</sup>No one has ever heard of a healing of the eyes of someone born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man wasn’t from God, he couldn’t do this.”

<sup>34</sup> They responded, “You were born completely in sin! How is it that you dare to teach us?” Then they expelled him.

### **Jesus finds the man born blind**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard they had expelled the man born blind. Finding him, Jesus said, “Do you believe in the Human One?”

<sup>36</sup> He answered, “Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him.”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said, “You have seen him. In fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

<sup>38</sup> The man said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshipped Jesus.

### **Jesus teaches the Pharisees**

<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I have come into the world to exercise judgment so that those who don’t see can see and those who see will become blind.”

<sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with him heard what he said and asked, “Surely we aren’t blind, are we?”

<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you wouldn’t have any sin, but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

L: The Word of God for all people

**P: Thanks be to God**

Special Music – *“I Believe”*

Faith Chancel Choir & Crossroads

Sermon: ~ “In the Presence”

Rev. Allison Mark

Pastoral Prayer/Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Allison Mark

### **We Respond to God’s grace**

Offering Our Gifts ~

Minister Ainise Isama’u

Doxology\*

Roger Butcher (organist)

**\*Offertory – Prayer of Dedication**

Jason Sasaki

Loving shepherd, gentle savior, we give you thanks this day: for rest in green pastures, for refreshment beside still waters, for health and wholeness for our souls. As we rejoice in your goodness and mercy, we offer you our gifts this day. Through our offering, may others be blessed, as we have been blessed from your hand. Amen.

**Going Forth in God's Holy Name**

Faith In Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC –

Minister Ainise Isama’u

Closing Hymn\* ~ *“O Zion, Haste” (UMH 573)*

Roger Butcher (organist)

Commission and Blessings \* -

Rev. Allison Mark

Passing of the Peace\* - Postlude