

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Son, Rise by T. Denise Anderson
Inspired by John 9: 1-7 | © a sanctified art | sanctifiedart.org
Additional information is found on page 4

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP – 10:00 A.M. (CDT)

MARCH 19, 2023

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Please silence your phones.

*Please rise in body or spirit.

PRELUDE

Jesus Paid It All with Lamb of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church at Work

Membership Team

Elizabeth Monroe

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Scripture is full of questions...
All: Where are you?
One: Am I my brother's keeper?
All: Whom shall I send?
One: Who do you say that I am?
All: Who sinned?
One: How many times shall I forgive?
All: If God is for us, who can be against us?
One: Scripture is full of questions, so just like those in our scriptures, may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.
All: Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

* HYMN We Come with Questions Bulletinette Page 2-B

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Who here has sinned?
All: We have sinned. We put our heads in the sand. We ignored people in need. We make false assumptions and fail to be kind. We are in need of forgiveness.

Silent Confession

* KYRIE Lord, Have Mercy
Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy.

* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score. When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives. When you lose your way, God comes running.
All: Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

* GLORIA PATRI Glory Be to the Father No. 581

* PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SPECIAL MUSIC I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 9:1-41

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON Seeking: Who Sinned? Rev. Ken Crews

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN A Man Who Could Not See Bulletinette Page 3-B

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE TEAM BLESSING

TUNE: LOBE DEN HERREN (Praise to the Lord, the Almighty)

GLIMPSES OF VIBRANCY

- Seeking glimpses of God, this time with Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, talking across differences to mutually serve one another: she gave a thirsty Jesus some water, as the Messiah he offered her waters of eternal life
Fifty - 50! - congregational members, including the full Session, gathered in retreat for four hours on a Saturday morning to name strengths upon which to build a shared vision and plans for mission outreach, financial planning and renovation of our building.
Symbols tell today's story: Jewish folk music theme that connects the Samaritan woman, artistic eye logo along with challenging questions for seekers that invite deeper faith, fresh red rose to celebrate new life, the children's handcrafted water wells, the purple of Lent that links both royal robes of kings and the sorrowful suffering of Jesus

FPC VALPARAISO IS A MATTHEW 25 CONGREGATION:



* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: We believe in a merciful God,

All: **a God who does not keep score, a God who wants good for us.**

One: We believe in a creative God,

All: **a God who would heal with mud, a God capable of seeing what we cannot.**

One: We believe in a saving God,

All: **a God who heals, a God who greets our questions with patience, a God who sends us out with hope in our step.**

One: What wondrous love is this. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

One: It is not the outward appearance or size of the gifts we have to share that matters to God. It is the loving generosity of our hearts that is closest to the heart of God. We are invited to give this day out of the abundance of our lives, from our heart, knowing that no matter the size of the gift that God knows our hearts.

All: **We give this day from our hearts and may it be pleasing to God.**

OFFERTORY

What Wondrous Love Is This

* DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

No. 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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

SENDING

* HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light

No. 314

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

EASTER FLOWERS

It’s that time of year again! If you would like to order flowers for Easter Sunday Worship Services, please forward the following information **to the church office by Sunday, March 26, 2023**. Flowers to choose from are Daffodils, Tulips and Hyacinths. The price is \$11.89 per plant. Please include Easter Flowers on the check memo line.

Name: _____

Phone No. _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Number of Daffodils: _____ @ \$11.89 per plant

Number of Tulips: _____ @ \$11.89 per plant

Number of Hyacinths: _____ @ \$11.89 per plant

Offering/gifts to the church are received in the offering plates, mailed to the church, online at fpcvalpo.org and via electronic transfer.

Grateful for all.

**PRAYER & PRAISE
MINISTRY**

If you desire prayer support for yourself or loved ones, don’t hesitate to contact the Prayer Warriors through the Prayer and Praise Ministry chain at:

bcgermann@gmail.com
or
(219) 477-9964

GRATITUDE FOR ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Liturgist:	Sharon Kinsey	Ushers:	Connie Knauff Paul Knauff
Musicians:	Shirley Bustos Choir Harry Karabel Jeff Whitney	Elder on Call:	Linda Long
Sexton:			
Open:	Dan Higgins		
Close:	Jim Hubbard		

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Son, Rise by T. Denise Anderson | Inspired by John 9: 1-7 | Oil on canvas | © a sanctified art | sanctifiedart.org

Artist Statement: Jesus' community saw this man's blindness as a curse or a punishment for sin (either his parents' sin or his own). While it is true that blindness comes with challenges in a world made for sightedness, it is important that we do not problematize blindness in preaching and teaching this story the way they did. What happened here was an apocalypse—a revelation of the nature of Jesus and the heart and mind of God. That revelation challenged the epistemologies of the community, and it is the ones in the story who'd been sighted all along who were ironically unable to perceive what God was doing. Jesus said that he "must work the works of him who sent me while it is day" (John 9:4). Daybreak is also an apocalypse of sorts; it reveals what we couldn't readily see at night and allows us to perceive the work in front of us. In my portrait, I've lit this man's face as if the earth and the sun's light are moving slowly across the surface, signaling the dawn of a new day. His eyes remain closed in my portrait because, for me, his newfound sightedness is not the miracle or the most important part of this story. What's most important is the revelation of who Jesus is. Jesus has been revealed to this man in a way that even the witnesses around him could not comprehend. His encounter with Jesus raises him to a new life and offers the whole community a new understanding of God's works. It's a new day for everyone, though that proves to be a difficult gift to receive. —Rev. Denise Anderson

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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We Come With Questions | LOBE DEN HERRER (*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*) | © Anna Strickland, 2021. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC. Free for congregational use | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Kyrie | Lord, Have Mercy | ©2021 by Jeffrey Whitney

Glory Be to the Father | Glory to God Hymnal No. 581 | TEXT: Trad. liturgical text | MUSIC: Henry W. Greator, 1981 | Public Domain

I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For | Words and Music by Bono (Paul David Hewson), The Edge (David Howell Evans), Adam Clayton, Larry Mullen jr. Arranged by Hans Reintjes | Copyright 1987 Universal Music Publishing International B. V. All rights in the United States and Canada controlled and administered by Universal - PolyGram International Publishing, Inc.

A Man Who Could Not See | LEONI 6.6.8.4 D (*The God of Abraham Praise*) | TUNE: Hebrew melody | Adapt. Thomas Olivers and Meyer Lyon, 1770 | TEXT: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette | All rights reserved

What Wondrous Love Is This | Appalachian Folk Hymn | Arr. Don Wyrzten | Arr. Copyright © 1991 Singspiration Music/ASCAP | All rights controlled by Benson Music Group, Nashville, TN

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow | *Glory to God* Hymnal No. 606 | CCLI Song # 56204 | Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken | © Words: Public Domain | Music: Public Domain | For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. | All rights reserved. www.ccli.com | CCLI License # 1852574

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