

March 21, 2010, 9:15 am - Fresh Spirit Worship - Fifth Sunday in Lent

As we gather for worship,  
please introduce yourself to those around you.  
There are no strangers in God's house.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Prodigal Round* Unknown

Singing Duet: Charlie Patterson and Libby Morgan  
Mallet Instruments: Jack Knellinger, Audrey Hatcher, Aidan Combs,  
Grace Dunn, Vincent Davis, and Sophie Hammons  
The Carol Choir; Charlotte Loflin, director

Clap your hands and celebrate!  
Make a wonderful sound!  
This child of mine has come to life,  
Was lost and now is found!

WELCOME

REFLECTION FOR PEACE

GATHERING THE PEOPLE

One: Children of the light, worship your God with joy!

**All:** *The gifts of each new day, the ties of family and friends,  
bring us to God with thanksgiving.*

One: Children of the light, worship your God in community!

**All:** *The traditions of the church, the witness of wonderful saints, bring us to God with thanksgiving.*

One: Children of the light, worship your God with just acts!

**All:** *The inclusion of those looked down upon, the acceptance of the disadvantaged, bring us to God with thanksgiving.*

One: Children of the light, worship your God, known in Jesus Christ!

**All:** *Jesus' ministry of compassion and his sacrifice of the cross, bring us to God with thanksgiving. Amen.*

SUNG RESPONSE (from The Servant Song)

**All:** *We are pilgrims on a journey,  
We are travelers on the road.  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

UNISON PRAYER FOR LENT

**All:** *We are chosen...*

*Chosen to proclaim the wonderful work of God*

*Who has called us out of darkness*

*Into God's marvelous light.*

*Once we were no people:*

*Now we are God's People.*

*Once we didn't know God's mercy:*

*With open hearts we wait for God's love and mercy to be fulfilled!*

*Amen.*

OPENING SONG (see insert) *Salt and Light* Jami Smith

RENEWING THE COVENANT

One: O God, give us grace to lift up our eyes from the routine and everyday,

**All:** *To grasp a vision of your awesome creative majesty.*

One: O God, give us grace to stand back from the familiar friendships and family ties,

**All:** *To see the worth of each person in your sight.*

One: O God, give us grace to lift up our eyes from "the way things have always been,"

**All:** *To see them transformed by your radiant presence.*

One: O God, give us grace to carefully consider our priorities,

**All:** *And measure them against the priorities of wholeness and compassion highlighted for us by Jesus Christ.*

---time for silent reflection---

One: You are at the heart of our faith community, O God.

**All:** *You will open our eyes to realities we would rather avoid.*

One: You will enable us to hear the words we would rather not hear.

**All:** *You will give us the strength to follow the path which leads to new and untried ways.*

One: Pardon and peace do not come without struggle and reflection, but God will grant you a new heart and a new start.

**All:** *Thanks be to God! Amen.*

PASSING THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

Leader: There are different gifts,

**All:** *But it is the same Spirit who gives them.*

Leader: There are different ways of serving God,

**All:** *But it is the same Lord who is served.*

Leader: God works through different people in different ways,

**All:** *But it is the same God whose will is brought about through them all.*

Leader: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

**All:** *To use it for the common good.*

Leader: Together we are the body of Christ.

**All:** *And individually members of Christ.*

Introduction of Deacons and Elders

Constitutional Questions and Questions to the Congregation

Laying on of Hands

Ordination Prayer

OFFERING OUR GIFTS BACK TO GOD

OFFERTORY SONG *Al Shlosha* Alan Naplan

Covenant Choir; Katherine Campe, director

Al shlosha, al shlosha d'varim haolam kayam

Al haemet v'al hadin v'al hashalom hashalom

Translation:

The world is sustained by three things:

by truth, by justice and by peace

DOXOLOGY

*We thank you God for all you have given.*

*Now we return a portion to you -*

*For all that we have, and all that we are,*

*We bring our gifts, and thank you God for life.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING John 9:1-25 CEV

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who had been blind since birth. Jesus' disciples asked, "Teacher, why was this man born blind? Was it because he or his parents sinned?"

"No, it wasn't!" Jesus answered. "But because of his blindness, you will see God work a miracle for him. As long as it is day, we must do what the one who sent me wants me to do. When night comes, no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light for the world."

After Jesus said this, he spit on the ground. He made some mud and smeared it on the man's eyes. Then he said, "Go and wash off the mud in Siloam Pool." The man went and washed in Siloam, which means "One Who Is Sent." When he had washed off the mud, he could see.

The man's neighbors and the people who had seen him begging wondered if he really could be the same man. Some of them said he was the same beg-

gar, while others said he only looked like him. But he told them, "I am that man."

Then how can you see?" they asked.

He answered, "Someone named Jesus made some mud and smeared it on my eyes. He told me to go and wash it off in Siloam Pool. When I did, I could see."

"Where is he now?" they asked.

"I don't know," he answered.

The day when Jesus made the mud and healed the man was a Sabbath. So the people took the man to the Pharisees. They asked him how he was able to see, and he answered, "Jesus made some mud and smeared it on my eyes. Then after I washed it off, I could see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man Jesus doesn't come from God. If he did, he would not break the law of the Sabbath."

Others asked, "How could someone who is a sinner work such a miracle?"

Since the Pharisees could not agree among themselves, they asked the man, "What do you say about this one who healed your eyes?"

"He is a prophet!" the man told them.

But the Jewish leaders would not believe that the man had once been blind. They sent for his parents and asked them, "Is this the son that you said was born blind? How can he now see?"

The man's parents answered, "We are certain that he is our son, and we know that he was born blind. But we don't know how he got his sight or who gave it to him. Ask him! He is old enough to speak for himself."

The man's parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. The leaders had already agreed that no one was to have anything to do with anyone who said Jesus was the Messiah.

The leaders called the man back and said, "Swear by God to tell the truth! We know that Jesus is a sinner."

The man replied, "I don't know if he is a sinner or not. All I know is that I used to be blind, but now I can see!"

SERMON *The Gospel of John—Shadows* Rev. Thomas D. York

FOCUS SONG (see insert) *He Healed the Darkness of My Mind* David Haas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 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, for ever. Amen.*

CLOSING SONG (see insert) *Be Light For Our Eyes* David Haas

BLESSING THE PEOPLE

**Sources for today's liturgy:** Gathering - *David Sparks, Prayers to Share, Year A.*; Renewing the Covenant - *David Sparks, Prayers to Share, Year C.*

**Thanks to** confirmand Emily Haussler for serving as liturgist this morning.

**If you feel called** to serve God by researching, writing or speaking liturgy in future services, please feel free to talk with any of the worship leaders or drop a note in the offering plate.

**Fresh Spirit Prayer Request** cards and offering envelopes are available in the black fellowship pad folders. If you have a prayer request, concern or joy you wish to share, please fill out a card and place it in the offering bags. All concerns and joys are welcome!

