

Service of Worship **Sunday, April 6, 2014 - LENT 5**

"Learning to See"

The Practice of Lenten Hospitality

Read John 9:1-41, the story of Jesus healing a blind man, and then consider this: we do not normally "see" or perceive our own environment from the perspective of another. How might this church be perceived by:

-children

-visitors who do not know our language

-people who are sight-impaired

-people who are hearing-impaired

-wheelchair users?

Within our financial resources, is there anything that could be changed to make our space more accessible for all? Pass your ideas on to a church leader or Steward.

**an invitation to rise in body or spirit, as you are comfortable*

Welcome & Sharing News or Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: The Light within all of life. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Opening Prayer (all)

God of Jesus, who shared our humanity, keep us company on this Lenten journey so that we may see the path to life in all its fullness. Amen.

(a magnifying glass is placed on the communion table)

Call to Worship

L: Welcome to this time of worship!

P: God's goodness and mercy have followed us day by day.

L: Welcome to this time of worship!

P: Christ's light shines ahead of us, showing us the right direction.

L: Welcome to this time of worship!

ALL: The Spirit of God is here, knowing our hearts and loving us.

***Opening Hymn** – 293 "We Praise You, Creator"

Hymn - 585 "Jesus bids us shine" vs. 1,2

Children's Time and Lord's Prayer

Hymn – 964 *(sung to the children as they leave for Sunday School)*

"Go now in peace, go now in joy, may the love of God surround you,

everywhere, everywhere, you may go."

Prayer of Confession

Silence is kept for personal prayer.

Assurance of Grace

Sung Response - "On Eagles' Wings"

And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of my hand.

Gospel Reading – based on John 9:1-41

Music for Meditation

Sermon - "Learning to See"

Minute for Mission

The Offering & *Offertory 542 "We give you.."

***Prayer of Dedication**

L: God generously supplies all we need; goodness and grace follow us everyday. In response to God's love, we share with others.

ALL: The light of Christ has shined in our lives. Bless with light and love all those who receive these gifts. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Prayers of the People

***Closing Hymn** – 642 "Be Thou My Vision" vs. 1,2,5

***Sending Forth**

L: God's goodness and mercy will follow us day after day.

ALL: We leave this place of worship trusting in God.

L: Christ's light shines ahead of us to show us the way.

ALL: We leave this place of worship with lives open to God.

L: The Spirit of God is always with us, knows our hearts, and loves us.

ALL: We leave this place of worship with lives open to each other.

***Sung Benediction** – 481 "Sent Forth By God's Blessing" vs. 2

***With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living;
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.***

***With your feast you feed us, with your light you lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving,
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.***

Sources: "SpiritFusion Lent Easter 2014", Wood Lake Publishing;

FROM HERE TO EASTER – A JOURNEY OF PRAYER

The season of Lent is a time to deepen our prayer life. The spiritual journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter is a journey that can bring us closer to the heart of God. To assist in this journey, you are invited to participate in specific prayer activities each week.

Week 5: Pray for your enemy(s). This week pray for those who have wronged you or those to whom you have had hard feelings. Consider whether it is time to forgive and/or let go? Remember that forgiving another does not necessarily mean reconciliation, but rather that you are no longer carrying bitterness inside. What might bring healing and release, or help to mend a broken relationship?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

North Derby Potluck & Euchre - Fri, Apr 25, 6:30 supper; 7:30 pm cards.
All welcome!