

Online Sunday Worship, March 22, 2020

Welcome & Orientation

Opening Hymn: "There's a wideness in God's mercy" (Hymn #470)

Music & lyrics here: <https://hymnary.org/hymn/EH1982/470>

Accompaniment video by Deanna Clement here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwbN7RwxsAk&feature=youtu.be>

**1. There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.**

**2. There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.**

**3. For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word;
and our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.**

Opening Sentences & Confession

Celebrant Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God; for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. *Joel 2:13*
Let us examine our lives in the presence of God, humbly confessing our sins and opening our hearts.

People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory & Psalter

Celebrant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All **Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Celebrant God is full of compassion and mercy; come, let us worship.

The Venite

All **Come, let us sing to the Holy One;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to God with psalms.
For you, O God, are a great God,
and a Ruler greater than all gods.
In your hands are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are yours also.
The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before God who made us.
For you are our God, and we are the people of your pasture
and the sheep of your hand.
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!**

Psalms 23

All **The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies:
you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Gospel: John 9:1-41

First Reader

A reading from the Gospel of John.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 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, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 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?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 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." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

Second Reader

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. 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."

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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 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." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

Third Reader

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." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. 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." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily & Reflection Time

A Time of Prayer

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Please pray using your preferred version of the Lord's Prayer.

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant Let us continue in prayer. We will hold up our needs and blessings to God. During the prayers, I invite you to hold your particular prayer needs in your heart, or share them with others who are in the room with you. At the conclusion of our usual pattern of prayer, we will have a time when people can speak particular prayer requests to the assembly.

Intercessor Let us give thanks for all our blessings. *[Pause]*

Intercessor You are good, your mercy is everlasting,
People **Your faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Intercessor Let us pray for all churches and their leaders, and for all God's people everywhere. *[Pause]*

Intercessor May your churches rejoice in one another's faithfulness.
People **Reveal in our common life the living Body of Christ.**

Intercessor Let us pray for all those in authority, [especially...] *[Pause]*

Intercessor May they rise early to reflect on wisdom.
People **May they consider justice by day and by night.**

Intercessor Let us pray for all nations and peoples. *[Pause]*

Intercessor We pray especially for these people serving our country: and their families. We also pray especially for all scientists, public health leaders, health care providers, and all those striving to preserve life, around the world. May all peoples enter your realm of justice and compassion.
People **May your children everywhere find safety, kindness and hope.**

Intercessor Let us pray for the earth and the whole created order. *[Pause]*

Intercessor You made us to serve you as loving caretakers of Creation.
People **Awaken our longing to protect and renew.**

Intercessor Let us pray for our local community. *[Pause]*

Intercessor May we work and pray for the good of the city where we dwell.
People **In its peace we shall find our peace.**

Intercessor Let us pray for those in any need or trouble, and hold up our own struggles to the light of God's love. *[Pause]*

Intercessor In this season, we pray especially for all those who are sick or at risk of illness; for all those facing financial struggles; and those dealing with loneliness and anxiety.
God of wholeness, you are the wellspring of new life.
People **Grant healing and peace to those who call out to you.**

Intercessor Let us pray for all who have died, and for those who mourn. *[Pause]*

Intercessor We entrust to your steadfast love all our beloved dead.
People **Bring consolation and strength to the living.**

Intercessor Let us pray for our common life and work as God's people. *[Pause]*

Intercessor Call us to our mission. Give us insight to know it and power to do it.

People **Make these words more than words, and give us the heart of Jesus.**

The Celebrant will invite people to share prayer requests out loud or in the Chat area.

Celebrant O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in your great mercy, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Additional Prayers

Prayer for a Time of Pandemic Illness

The Rev. Kate Sonderegger

We turn to you, O Lord, in full knowledge of our frailty, our vulnerability, and our great need as your mortal creatures. We cry to you, as one human family, unsure of the path ahead, unequal to the unseen forces around us, frightened by the sickness and death that seem all too real to us now. Stir up your strength and visit us, O Lord; be our shield and rock and hiding place! Guide our leaders, our scientists, our nurses and doctors. Give them wisdom and fill their hearts with courage and determination. Make even this hour, O Lord, a season of blessing for us, that in fear we find you mighty to save, and in our weakness, we trust the cross to be none other than the way of life. All this we ask in the name of the One who bore all our infirmities, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and lovingkindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,**

be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "There is a balm in Gilead"

Music & lyrics here: <https://hymnary.org/hymn/EH1982/676> (scroll down past #675!)

Accompaniment video by Deanna Clement here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MW7gXMHZsHQ&feature=youtu.be>

Chorus: **There is a balm in Gilead
that makes the wounded whole;
There is a balm in Gilead
that heals the sin-sick soul.**

**1. Sometimes I feel discouraged
and feel my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again. *Chorus***

**2. If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
and how he died for all. *Chorus***

The Blessing

Celebrant The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God bless you
and strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, even now;
in the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity.

People **Amen.**

Virtual Coffee Hour

Feel free to log off, or stay and chat with others.