

Bourne and Cataumet United Methodist Churches

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

Prelude

Tatsiana Mazheika, pianist

*Good morning! Welcome to the United Methodist Church in Bourne, Massachusetts,
In The Land of the Wampanoag.*

We are part of a three-church parish which includes West Falmouth and Cataumet.

Welcome also to those joining us via our live-stream.

We are grateful for your presence in worship today.

Announcements

Choral Introit

Hymn

Morning Has Broken

#145

1. *Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*
2. *Sweet the rains new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.*
3. *Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light, Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!*

Opening Prayer (In unison)

**Where two or three are gathering
in Your name,
You are there, O Lord.
And so we come together**

**in beloved community,
eager for the blessing of fellowship
and the opportunity to praise.
Guide us, mold us together,
that we may form the common bond of peace,
and together, love our world into shalom.
Amen.**

THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you**

Hymn - Shalom to You

#666

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.

May God's full mercies bless you my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,

Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Hebrew Bible: Psalm 23

#754 (response #2)

Response: The Good Shepherd comes that we may have life and have it abundantly.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures,

leads me beside still waters,

restores my life,

leads me in right paths

for the sake of the Lord's name.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me. (R)

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

as long as I live. (R)

The Offering and The Offertory

We ask all who are able to contribute to keep the ministries of God's church continuing. We request all who are able to mail our pledges and offerings to the church we attend.

Bourne United Methodist Church
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(508)759-4898

Cataumet United Methodist Church
PO Box 812, Cataumet, MA02534
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Our Finance Committees have now provided a way for us to give online. We can click on the Online Giving here or on the website, set up a profile, and sign up to make your pledge/offering. If you have any questions, please leave a message at the church office, we will return your call to provide you assistance.

Choir Anthem

Doxology – Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

#95

Praise God from whom all blessing flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

**We lift our hearts to You, O Lord,
and offer these gifts,
the fruit of our labors.
We are grateful
for the blessings of this life,
and the opportunity to share ourselves
with Your sacred world.
Amen.**

Gospel: John 9:1-41

As he 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 he." 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." 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." 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."

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, 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 who were with 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.

**MAY GOD’S WONDER BE REVEALED TO US
THROUGH THE MYSTERY OF THESE WORDS.**

Sermon *Neither Defined Nor Doomed By Our Mistakes* **Pastor Karen Lilli Pax**

Hymn *Open My Eyes, That I May See* **#454**

1. *Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

2. *Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

3. *Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

Silent Prayer and Meditation
Prayers of the People
The Lord’s Prayer

Hymn *How Lovely Lord, How Lovely* **#2042**

1. *How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place;
my soul is longing, fainting to feast upon your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;
and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.*

2. *In your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day
is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord
then revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.*

3. *A sun and shield forever are you, O God most high;
you shower us with blessings; no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.*

Benediction

Sung Response: God Be With You Till We Meet Again

*God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again. (Refrain:)
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

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