

Cover Art: “Son, Rise”, by T. Denise Anderson, Inspired by John 9: 1-7| A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. See handout on back table for more information by the artist. In this image, Jesus’ community saw this man’s blindness a punishment for sin (his parents’ or his own). His encounter with Jesus raises him to a new life and offers the whole community a new understanding of God’s works.

In Our Prayers ✨

We pray for healing for Doug Hoffman and Kathy Meeks. We rejoice with Belle Riley and the McCutcheon Middle School Dance Team for taking first place in Jazz at the State Competition. We also pray for our Special Care friends Marilyn Pryor and Edith Short.

Central Happenings

SUNDAY – March 19

10:00am Worship (Sanctuary/Online)

WEDNESDAY – March 22

10:00am WOW (Fitch Parlor)

12:00pm Charity Knitters (Discipleship)

5:30pm Bell Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY – March 23

7:00pm Central Choir Practice (Rehearsal Hall)

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Donations will be accepted through April 9. Please include OGHS on the memo line of your check.

Pastor: Wil Reinowski
Adult Music & Organist: Jeffry Stearns
Adult Handbells: Janice Spitalniak
Celebration Music: Paul Foster
Custodian: Bob Hill

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Central Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023

Welcome

Prelude

“Kyrie”

(J.S. Bach)

*Call to Worship

Deb Hester

Leader: Scripture is full of questions...

People: Where are you?

Leader: Am I my brother’s keeper?

People: Whom shall I send?

Leader: Who do you say that I am?

People: Who sinned?

Leader: How many times shall I forgive?

People: If God is for us, who can be against us?

Leader: Scripture is full of questions, so just like those in our scriptures, may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

People: Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

***Hymn** "As Morning Dawns" 665

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Leader: Who here has sinned?

People: 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.

Leader: 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.

People: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Leader: Have we sinned?

People: We have sinned. We put our heads in the sand. We ignore people in need. We make false assumptions and fail to be kind. We, too, are in need of forgiveness.

Sung Response "Wait for the Lord" 90

*Wait for the LORD, whose day is near.
Wait for the LORD; be strong; take heart!*

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score. When we suffer, God weeps. When we sin, God forgives. When we lose our way, God comes running.

People: Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

*Congregational Response

"Glory to God in the Highest" (back cover Hymnal)

*Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Ephesians 5:8-14

Anthem "Feed My Lambs" (Sleeth)

Second Reading John 9:1-41

Message "Seeking: The Blind Man – A Gospel in Six Scenes"
Rev. Wil Reinowski

Music "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" (S. Townsend)

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Offering

The offering basket is located at the back of the west aisle of the sanctuary. Feel free to leave your offering at this time.

Offertory "If You But Suffer God to Guide You" (J.S. Bach)

***Doxology** 606

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

In gratitude, O God, we come to your table, into your presence, into your house. For all that you have done for us, most especially, for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise. We long to live as children of light, doing what is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light through Jesus Christ, who awakens those who sleep, and raises those who are dead to new life. In his name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn** "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness" 314

Benediction

Postlude "Wash, O God Your Sons and Daughters" (Duck/White)
Please remain seated until the conclusion of the postlude.



** Please stand as you are able.*