**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

 *\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

 Fourth Sunday in Lent March 19, 2023 9 am

 Liturgist: Paula Voskuil

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 23, Ephesians 5)

L: Dawn is breaking. Christ’s light is shining.

**P: The Light of the world shines in our lives.**

L: Put aside the cares of the night.

**P: In the Lord, we live in the light.**

L: Even in the darkest valley, God illuminates our path.

**P: Even in times of despair, hope shines forth.**

L: Sleeper, awake! Christ’s light is shining.

**P: The Light of the world shines in our lives.**

\*OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 23, Ephesians 5)

**Light of all lights, be our vision this day. Open our eyes to behold your glory. Open our hearts to the warmth of your love. Open our minds to the flame of your truth. Open our souls to the glory of living as children of light, that others may see in our living the sacred mystery of your kingdom. Amen.**

**\***OPENING HYMN ***Come and Find the Quiet Center*** #2128

CHILDREN’S TIME Paul Hoffman

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (1 Samuel 16, Ephesians 5, John 9)

**Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain, we would rather shut our eyes and be blind than see things as they really are. Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world, and give us the strength to bring your light to those who walk in darkness. Help us see others as you see them, and forgive us when we do not trust you enough to open our eyes to the possibilities before us. Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God, and lead us in the footsteps of the Light of the World, who reveals your glory in his life, his teachings, and his love. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Psalm 23)

Christ came to lead us in paths of righteousness and to guide us through our lives. Christ is with us in times of danger and times of peace. The goodness and mercy of God are given to us each and every day of our lives. God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love, and leads us to the place that Christ has prepared for us. Believe in your heart that God loves you and forgives you. We believe! God help our unbelief!

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Shon

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(In Unison)*

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (2 Peter 1, Matthew 17)

We are called to live in hope and to share this hope with the world. Let us offer thanks to God for all God has given us by sharing generously of ourselves and of our resources. Through our gifts, may all experience the hope to be found in our life-giving God.

**\***DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*** #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Pastor Shon

SCRIPTURE Genesis 3:1-7

**1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” **2**The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, **3**but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” **4**“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. **5**“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

**6**When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. **7**Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

HYMN OF PRAISE  ***Open Our Eyes*** #2086

MESSAGE  ***Three Ifs***  Rev. Inwha Shon

\*CLOSING HYMN***Trust and Obey***#467

**\***BENEDICTION Rev. Inwha Shon

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

 **PRAYER FAMILIES:** Please pray for people in Turkey and Syria whose lives have been

devastated by two earthquakes. Continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and Russia, and the world.

 Pray for our church, community, and nation.

**BIBLE STUDY in LENT:** “***Jesus in the Wild***”, Sunday at 10:30 am/Wednesday at 5:45 pm.

**UMCOR** (United Methodist Committee on Relief)will be taking a special collection today.

 UMCOR has provided an initial solidarity grant to IBC to provide basic supplies to earthquake victims.

**THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**: Annual Spring Retreat will be held on Saturday, May 6 at Pine

 Lake Camp. Register by April 21. Cost is $20 ($25 after April 21) and includes lunch

**WEDNESDAY CONNECTIONS:** A meal will be served by Imelda Kelly.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** is Tuesday, March 21st is due.

**MISSION OUTREACH:** will meet next Sunday, March 26, 10:30 am.

**SCRIP CARDS:** When you are thinking of ideas for gift giving or personal use, consider Scrip cards**.**

Stop at the gathering area on Sundays or call Marcia at 715-284-3346

**FELLOWSHIP:** will be served by Stephanie Bantell

**USHER/GREETERS**: Jim & Carol Hornby

**THIS WEEK AT THE CHURCH:**

 Tue: Worship Comm. 5:30 pm

 Wed: Wednesday Connections 4:45-6 pm Bible Study 5:45-6:30 pm

 Thu: Children/Youth/Family 5:30 pm

**Bible Verse of the Week:** 1 Timothy 1:18-19 NKJV

*“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck.”*

**Bible Trivia:**

For whom was the Law made?

 A. the Israelites B. the Pharisees

 C. righteous men D. lawless and disobedient men

*see 1 Timothy 1:9*

**Black River Falls**

**United Methodist Church**

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**UMC Mission Statement:**

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

 PASTOR Rev. Inwha Shon

 PIANIST Matthew Schluntz

 MUSIC DIRECTOR Amanda Lang

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