

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 19, 2023

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lenten Reading John 3:1-8 Michael and Stephanie Noel

\*Call to Worship St. Columba, 521-597

Kindle in our hearts, dear God,

**the flame of love that never ceases,  
that it may burn in us, giving light to others.**

May we shine forever in your temple,

**set on fire with your eternal light,**

**Your Son, Jesus Christ,**

**our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.**

\*Hymn 802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is, verses 1, 2, and 3.

Prayer of Confession

**Holy One, you know our hearts. You have knitted our inmost being and you know our deepest desires, fears, and worries. Help us to journey during this Lenten season into a new awareness of your presence in our lives. Save us from our own temptations, so that we may more freely follow you. Amen.**

Hymn Take, O Take Me As I Am

Assurance of Forgiveness

The Lord removes our sins from us as far as the east is from the west. In this is our great comfort in life. Friends, believe the good news. Our sins are forgiven. We may rest in God's peace.

First Reading Psalm 23

Moments With Our Young Disciples

The Gospel Reading John 9: 1-41

The Morning Message John Morgan

\*Hymn 451 Open My Eyes that I May See

\*Affirmation of Faith Apostles' Creed p. 35

\*Hymn 581 Gloria Patri

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

God of mercy, grace, and love, the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ makes every day new.

Especially today we thank you for the beauty of creation,

the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness,

the sustaining love of family and friends,

the fellowship of the faithful in your church.

**Merciful God, renew this weary world. As the earth breaks forth in bud and bloom, may our hearts be opened afresh to the power of your love.**

**Heal the hurts of all your children, put your words in our mouths, and bring about your peace for all in Jesus Christ, the living Lord.**

We pray for those who govern the nations of the world, the people who live in countries damaged by strife and warfare, for those who work for peace and international harmony and those who devote themselves to the care of your natural world. We pray for our friends and family who are in need of wholeness in body, mind, or circumstance. Assure them, and those who provide their care, that your love surrounds them and give them a sense of your presence and peace.

**Safely guard all those who are far from home, and those who long for home. We pray for all who worship you, dear God, though we may call you by different holy names.**

**We pray for ourselves, that you might find us faithful today and on the day of your promised return.**

We pray in Jesus' name and as he taught us, saying, *Our Father...Amen.*"

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

\*Hymn 607 Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

**All our resources are gifts from you, gracious Lord. In gratitude, help us to use them wisely, that we may serve the needs of your people and spread the good news of salvation near and far. Amen.**

\*Hymn 802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is, verses 4, 5, and 6

\*Blessing

May the Three that are over you,

the Three that are below you,

the Three that are above you here,

the Three Who are above you yonder,

the Three Who are in the earth,

the Three Who are in the air,  
the Three Who are in heaven,  
the Three Who are in the great, pouring sea-  
bless you.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Three in One and One in Three. Amen.

\*Postlude