



Father forgive them for they know not what they do. Luke 23:26-3

MARCH 18-19, 2023

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

❖ *The Teacher sat around a blazing fire with a small number of students late at night. Their meandering conversation was broken by periods of silence when they all gazed at the stars and the moon. Following one of these periods when no one spoke the Teacher asked a question. "How can we know when the night has ended and the day has begun?"*

Eagerly one young man answered. "You know the night is over and the day has begun when you can look off in the distance and determine which animal is your dog and which animal is the sheep. Is that the right answer, Teacher?"

"It is a good answer," the Teacher said slowly, "but it is not the answer I would give," he said. After several minutes of discussion a second student ventured a guess on behalf of the whole group. "You know the night is over and the day has begun when light falls on the leaves and you can tell whether it is a palm tree or a fig tree."

Once again the Teacher shook his head. "That was a fine answer, but it is not the answer I seek," he said gently. Immediately the students began to argue with one another. Finally one of them begged the Teacher, "Answer your own question, Teacher, for we cannot think of another response."

The Teacher looked intently at the eager young faces before he began to speak. "When you look into the eyes of a human being and see a brother or sister you know that it is morning. If you cannot see a sister or brother you will know that it will always be night."

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: A word spoken,

All: A voice heard,

One: A dream revealed,

All: A mission received.

One: God calls

All: Again and again.

One: God beckons us

All: To follow,

One: To love,

All: To serve,

One: To give.

All: Again and again

One: God invites us

All: To embrace the lonely,

One: To feed the hungry,

All: To tell the Good News of Jesus,

One: Light of the world, help us see all these people you love.

PRAISE SONG: *Something Beautiful for God (music at end of bulletin)*

OUR CONFESSION:

God of Light and Life, we are all born blind. We look upon the world with eyes of fear and prejudice, deceiving ourselves into believing that we can see. Help us to recognize our blindness and to ask for your healing touch. Restore our vision, that we may see the world with the compassionate eyes of Christ. Amen.

CONFESSION SONG: *Break Our Hearts Again (music at end of bulletin)*

THE READING: **John 9:1-41**

¹⁻² Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, “Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?”

³⁻⁵ Jesus said, “You’re asking the wrong question. You’re looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world’s Light.”

⁶⁻⁷ He said this and then spit in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man’s eyes, and said, “Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam” (Siloam means “Sent”). The man went and washed—and saw.

⁸ Soon the town was buzzing. His relatives and those who year after year had seen him as a blind man begging were saying, “Why, isn’t this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?”

⁹ Others said, “It’s him all right!”

But others objected, “It’s not the same man at all. It just looks like him.”

He said, “It’s me, the very one.”

¹⁰ They said, “How did your eyes get opened?”

¹¹ “A man named Jesus made a paste and rubbed it on my eyes and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ I did what he said. When I washed, I saw.”

¹² “So where is he?”

“I don’t know.”

¹³⁻¹⁵ They marched the man to the Pharisees. This day when Jesus made the paste and healed his blindness was the Sabbath. The Pharisees grilled him again on how he had come to see. He said, “He put a clay paste on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “Obviously, this man can’t be from God. He doesn’t keep the Sabbath.”

Others countered, “How can a bad man do miraculous, God-revealing things like this?” There was a split in their ranks.

¹⁷ They came back at the blind man, “You’re the expert. He opened *your* eyes. What do you say about him?”

He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ The Jews didn’t believe it, didn’t believe the man was blind to begin with. So they called the parents of the man now bright-eyed with sight. They asked them, “Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? So how is it that he now sees?”

²⁰⁻²³ His parents said, “We know he is our son, and we know he was born blind. But we don’t know how he came to see—haven’t a clue about who opened his eyes. Why don’t you ask him? He’s a grown man and can speak for himself.” (His parents were talking like this because they were intimidated by the Jewish leaders, who had already decided that anyone who took a stand that this was the Messiah would be kicked out of the meeting place. That’s why his parents said, “Ask him. He’s a grown man.”)

²⁴ They called the man back a second time—the man who had been blind—and told him, “Give credit to God. We know this man is an impostor.”

²⁵ He replied, “I know nothing about that one way or the other. But I know one thing for sure: I was blind . . . I now see.”

²⁶ They said, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

²⁷ “I’ve told you over and over and you haven’t listened. Why do you want to hear it again? Are you so eager to become his disciples?”

²⁸⁻²⁹ With that they jumped all over him. “*You* might be a disciple of that man, but we’re disciples of Moses. We know for sure that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this man even comes from.”

³⁰⁻³³ The man replied, “This is amazing! You claim to know nothing about him, but the fact is, he opened my eyes! It’s well known that God isn’t at the beck and call of sinners, but listens carefully to anyone who lives in reverence and does his will. That someone opened the eyes of a man born blind has never been heard of—ever. If this man didn’t come from God, he wouldn’t be able to do anything.”

³⁴ They said, “You’re nothing but dirt! How dare you take that tone with us!” Then they threw him out in the street.

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and went and found him. He asked him, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

36 The man said, “Point him out to me, sir, so that I can believe in him.”

37 Jesus said, “You’re looking right at him. Don’t you recognize my voice?”

38 “Master, I believe,” the man said, and worshiped him.

39 Jesus then said, “I came into the world to bring everything into the clear light of day, making all the distinctions clear, so that those who have never seen will see, and those who have made a great pretense of seeing will be exposed as blind.”

40 Some Pharisees overheard him and said, “Does that mean you’re calling us blind?”

41 Jesus said, “If you were really blind, you would be blameless, but since you claim to see everything so well, you’re accountable for every fault and failure.”

MESSAGE: “*Vision Check*”

Pastor Cristy Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: “In God’s Eyes” (*music at end of bulletin*)

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

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.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: As we leave this worship, may we walk with a new vision, new insight and renewed faith which will enable us to see more clearly God's presence at work in our lives together. May we see a sibling in the eyes of everyone we meet. Through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: “*Boundless Love*” (*music at end of bulletin*)

THE DISMISSAL:

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

OUR *Welcome* IS WIDE OPEN

Skeptic. Cynic. Certain. Believer. Confident. Fearful. Doubter. Seeker. Questioner. Latino. Black. Asian. White. Indigenous. Immigrant. Any combination of ethnic or racial identities. Female. Male. Straight. Gay. Bisexual. Transgender. Questioning. Rich. Poor. Middle-class. Barely making it. Able bodied. Specially abled. Disabled. Young. Old. In-between. Married. Single. Divorced. Awaiting trial. Served time. On probation. Tired. Worn. Hopeful. Employed. Unemployed. Workaholic. Slacker. Anxious. Depressed. Confused. Centered. Inked. Pierced. Both. Life long follower of Jesus. Regular attender. Occasional attender. Curious onlooker. Don't quite fit the box. Need a prayer right now. **Trinity is a faith community where we believe in God's love, grace and mercy—illustrated most clearly through Jesus Christ. We believe we are all children of God, created in God's image and equal in God's sight. We believe God loves us just as we are and way too much to let us stay this way. We are called to live in God's light and be transformed, not through judgment but through unconditional love. We believe God's love is all-inclusive and is stronger than the pressure to be perfect regardless of whatever labels we carry.** Saint. Sinner. Democrat. Republican. Independent. Libertarian. Green. Socialist. Apolitical. Addicted. Recovering. We don't care what religion or denomination you are. We are all Human. We are all Flawed. We are all Beloved. —**You are welcome here.**

COME *as you are.*

TRINITY CONGREGATION WELCOME STATEMENT | MARCH 2017



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Something Beautiful for God

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature. It begins with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket labeled '3'.

1. Know this one thing a - bove all else.
2. Ev - ry - one who we meet to - day
3. Je - sus will vis - it us to - day

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

We are loved, loved by God. Let this be how we
is God's child, God's own child. May our lives help them
in dis - guise, in dis - guise. Poor and weak, Christ will

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

see our - selves, as peo - ple loved, loved by God. And
hear God say, "You are my child, God's own child." A
come our way, - Je - sus Christ in dis - guise. The

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

once we know the love of Christ; feel God's heal - ing
smile can ra - di - ate God's love. Let them see the
lone - ly poor, the vic - tim - ized, love for them is

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

in our lives, lov - ing ser - vice is
Christ in us. Let our lives be the
love for Christ. Love is wa - ter to

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

how we give our love back to God. To -
cheer - ful - ness of God in this world! To -
quench the thirst of Christ on the cross. To -

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

day let us do some - thing beau - ti - ful for God! Do some - thing small, but

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

do it with great love. Do what we can, where we are

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

with what we've got. To - day, let us do some - thing

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature. It includes first and second endings labeled '1., 2.' and a third ending labeled '3.' with a 'D.S. al Coda' instruction.

beau - ti - ful for God. God! To -

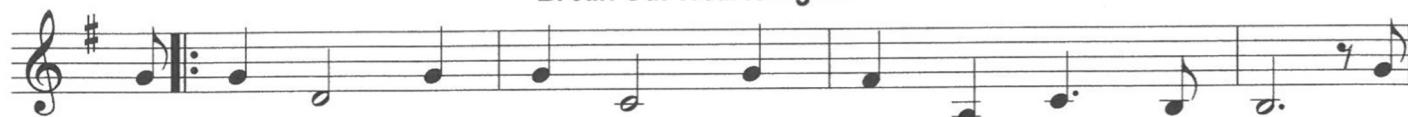
Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature. It begins with a Coda symbol.

beau - ti - ful for God, to - day let us do some - thing beau - ti - ful for God, to -

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

day let us do some - thing beau - ti - ful for God!

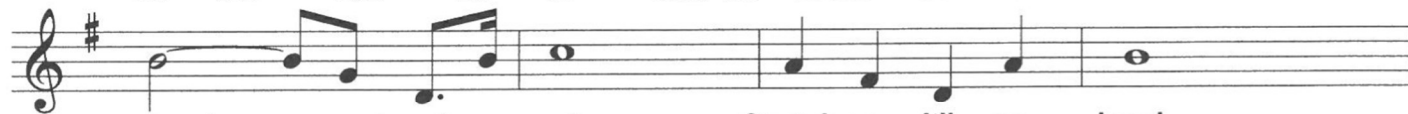
Break Our Hearts Again



1. We pile up like dry bones, like or - phans gath - er - ing. In
(2. Our) moun-tains are crumb-ling like sand in - to the sea. Our



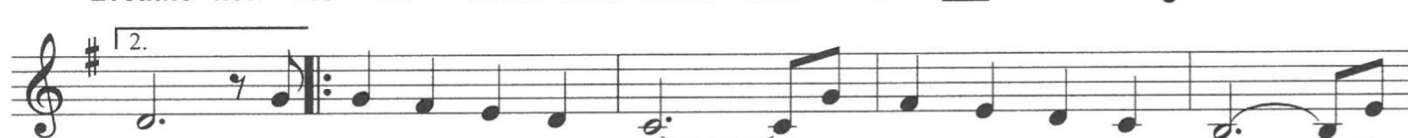
bur - den, we're bro - ken, our de - fens - es frac - tur - ing. So
riv - ers run dri - er than the rocks be - neath our feet. So



break our hearts a - gain. Stretch us 'til we bend.



Breathe new life on these tired bones and make us new a - gain. 2. Our



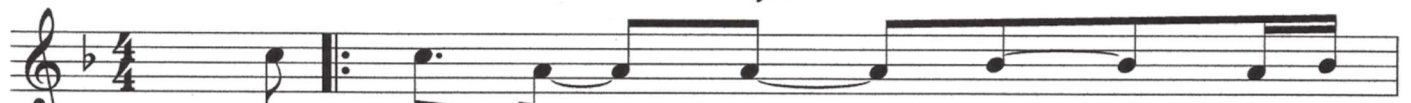
gain We lay our ar - mor down. We lay our ar - mor down. We



lay our ar - mor down. We lay our ar - mor down. We

Sing 3X, then Fine

In God's Eyes



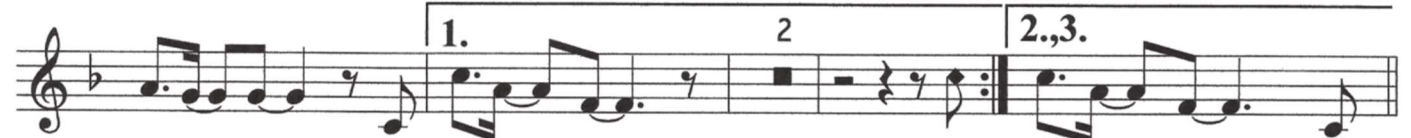
Out - side my win - dow, right a -
(There) is am a no broth - er work - ing
(I) am no bet - ter and I



cross the street there is some - one new liv - ing next to me, They
on Wall Street and a sis - ter who needs bread to eat. Now
am no worse than a drunk who's ly - ing in the dirt. Now



might look diff - 'rent, they might talk strange Do I
truth keeps call - ing we have fam' - ly ties cries, we're
truth keeps cal - ing 'till we hear the cries, we're



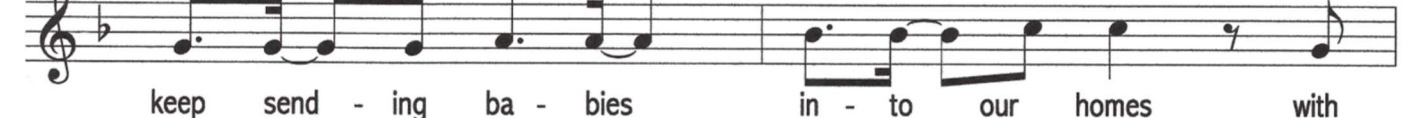
1. real - ly care to know their name? (There) in God's eyes. in
all the same
all the same



God's eyes, there must be riv - ers of tears for all the pain



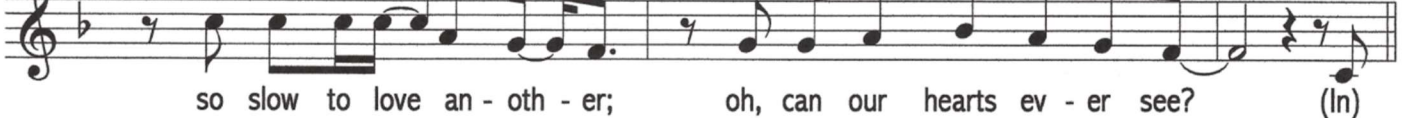
love has en - dured. In God's eyes, there must be moun - tains of hope to



keep send - ing ba - bies in - to our homes with



God's eyes. (I) So quick to judge each oth - er,
D. S. al Fine



so slow to love an - oth - er; oh, can our hearts ev - er see? (In)

Boundless Love



Bound - less love touch - es and chang - es the heart of us.



Bound - less love touch - es and chang - es the heart of



us. Oh Spir - it of Je - sus you
We stru - cture in - jus - tice that
Oh Spir - it of life come and



sit at our ta - ble and call us to a rad - i - cal
keeps some from eat - ing, you pre - pare us for a dif - fer - ent
move through the peo - ple con - front - ing the pow - ers of



meal _____ of bound - less love that climbs o - ver
feast _____ of bound - less love that climbs o - ver
death _____ 'cause bound - less love that climbs o - ver



bar - riers so noth - ing can keep us a - part.
bar - riers so noth - ing can keep us a - part.
bar - riers so noth - ing can keep us a - part.