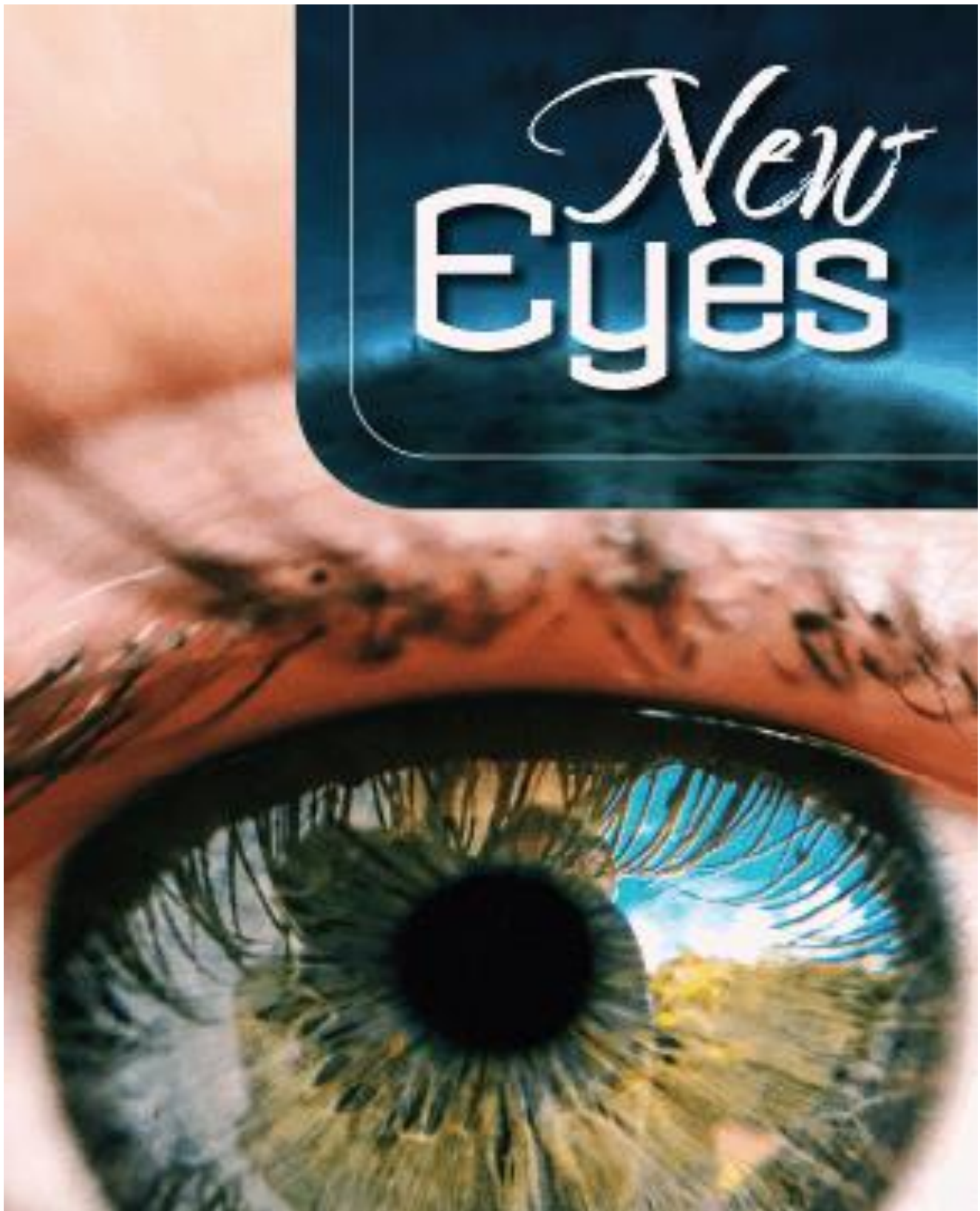


Saint Paul's United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent
10:15 am



Welcome

The Peace of Christ

Pastor: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Peace be in our midst.

People: Peace be in our very souls.

Pastor: Peace be the light on our path.

People: Peace be the way of our world.

Pastor: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

Opening Video

Prelude

Jen Martz

*Ringing of the Bells

*Call to Worship

Pete Molitor- Worship Leader

L: Once you lived in darkness.

P: Now the light of God has shone upon us.

L: Find what is pleasing to God and follow God's ways.

P: The acts of darkness are left behind as we journey to God's light.

L: Thanks be to God who gives us the light.

P: Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your light of salvation. AMEN.

*Opening Hymn

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

#193

*Opening Prayer (unison)

Source of Light, God of great mercy and love, we come to you this day seeking restoration of our sight. Clear away our blindness, and give us a new vision of all that we can accomplish in your name. Give us strength and confidence to truly witness to your abiding love and faithfulness. For we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Gathering Song

"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"

Presentation of the Offering

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of light and love and peace, we praise your name for leading us in paths of righteousness, that we may come into your presence, forgiven and free. We give you thanks for guiding us to this place: where we may rest beside the still waters of your grace, where we are filled with the good gifts of your goodness and mercy. We worship you with all that we are, and we bless your name for all that we will be as we continue on our journey — a journey that leads us to your kingdom, where we will dwell with you forever. We offer you these gifts, that you might bless them and send them out into the valley of the shadow of death, and everywhere in need of your light. Amen.

Scripture

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture

For the Word of God among us

For the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God!

Choir Anthem

Children's Message

Pastor Jim

Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Prayer Video

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession(unison)

Healing God, we have languished in our blindness. We have chosen to hide in darkness in order to avoid reaching out and risking acceptance. We are afraid of the light, and yet we crave it.

In your light, there is healing and hope, restoration and transformation. Forgive our lack of faith and our fearfulness, O Lord. Give us courage to reach out to the light and accept its healing rays. May our lives be transformed by your mercy, for we pray this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer (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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer Response

"God Ever Faithful"

Scripture

John 9:1-41

Message

"New Eyes"

Pastor Jim

*Hymn

"He Leadeth Me"

*Benediction

Lord, give us such sight, that we may see the many ways of serving you by helping others. Help us bring sight to others who dwell in deep darkness. AMEN.

Postlude

Ringling of the Bells

Go in Peace