

**Beulah Presbyterian Church**  
**March 19, 2023**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

“Sarabande”

Gordon Young

**GREETINGS, WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

This is the day the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP and OPENING PRAYER**

God does not see as mortals see.

We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

**Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

Once we lived in darkness, but now –

as children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.

**Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

Let us pray:

**Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see? Bring us again and again into your light until your ways become visible to us, and bear fruit in us. Touch us so that we are utterly changed, a “before” and “after,” a “now” and “then”; that we may also say,**

**“One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. In Christ’s light, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

#744

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

As children of God’s light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

(Silence is observed.)

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**We will live as children of the light for Christ shines on us.**

### **\*THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

### **ANTHEM**

"The Lord is My Shepherd"  
(Chancel Choir)

Allen Pote

## **ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD**

### **A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

*(Children are invited to participate in activities at the Prayground area in front of the pulpit for the remainder of the service.)*

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Christ's name, we pray. **Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson Ephesians 5:8-14

2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson John 9:1-41

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON**

"Seeing..... As God Sees"

Pastor Bill Owens

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from The Brief Statement of Faith)**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from**

death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**\*Hymn**

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

#451

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

**Call for the Offering**

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. Sharing what we have so abundantly received, we bring now our tithes and offerings to God, with gladness and gratitude.

**Offertory**

**\*Celebrating God’s Generosity**

Hymn #606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**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.**

**GOING IN GOD’S NAME**

**\*Hymn**

“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

#362

**\*CHARGE and BLESSING**

Go peaceably, looking upon the hearts of others.  
Live in Christ’s light, even in the darkest valley.  
Trust that he is able to open your eyes,  
enabling you to walk by faith in his name.  
May the love of God pursue you,  
the light of Christ enfold you,  
and the Holy Spirit keep you;  
as you dwell in the house of the Lord  
your whole life long.

**\*POSTLUDE**

“Divertissement”

Gordon Young

*Go in Peace*

*A special word of thanks to all those who helped make this worship service possible.  
It is good to be together!*

CCLI#20544224 & 20544

*Remember in Prayer*

*Laura Foster, Ron Vaughn, Susan Rock, Lorna Pierce, Joy Brands, Suzi Criscoe,  
Rev. Don Seeger*

*All those who are Care Givers, all those affected by tragic world events and  
Jake Mohn, Dylan Brooks, Jeffrey Schmidt, and all Service Personnel and their families.*

## **Welcome! We warmly greet all who have come to worship God.**

**We are so glad that you are here.** We hope that joining us for worship today will nurture your heart and transform your mind. Here at Beulah our mission is transforming lives through the love of Jesus Christ – that simple and that challenging. We realize we need each other and commit to pray for each other. We reach out in love and compassion to a world in need, and we know we are a work in progress. If you are new to Beulah, we hope you will join us again and consider attending any of our mission, fellowship, and education opportunities. God's peace to you today.

**Membership** ~ If you have any questions about membership, please call the church office at 502-239-3231 or email [carol@beulahpres.org](mailto:carol@beulahpres.org).

**Learn more** by visiting us on our website at [www.beulahpres.org](http://www.beulahpres.org), and on our Facebook page at Beulah Presbyterian Church.

**Assisting in worship** ~ Pastor Bill Owens; Liturgist Ashley Hostetter; Music Director/Accompanist Kim Karchenes; Sound Crew, Brent Dellacoletta and Jim Harris.

**Virtual Ministry** ~ Please follow us on our Website [www.beulahpres.org](http://www.beulahpres.org), Facebook, Instagram@beulah\_pres, and YouTube to stay up to date on upcoming events, view previous worship services, live stream services, and see what's happening in the life and ministry of Beulah!

**Listening Devices** ~ The Sanctuary is equipped with Listening Devices for persons with hearing difficulty. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**Electronic Devices** ~ In the hustle and bustle of getting ourselves ready for church it is easy to forget to turn off our cell phones. We offer this gentle reminder to please power off cell phones and other electronic devices so that the worship service is not disrupted by them.

**Large Print Worship Bulletin** ~ If you or someone you know needs a large print bulletin of today's service, please ask one of the ushers and they will assist you.

