

March 22, 2020

St. John – Hill U.C.C.

620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512

610-367-8114 · www.stjohnhillucc.org

4th Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

(+) *Those who are able please stand* **Bold – congregation responds as able**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

+HYMN

“Total Praise”

[YouTube Link](#)

+CALL TO CONFESSION

The proof of God’s amazing love is this:
That it was while we were sinners Christ died for us.
It is in the same Jesus, because we have faith in him,
that we dare with confidence to approach God.
Let us admit our guilt before God.

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O Lord, forgive:

**Our choosing the worse when we know the better;
our failure to apply to ourselves
the standards of conduct we demand of others;
our blindness to the sufferings of others
and our slowness to be taught by our own;
our complacency towards wrongs that do not affect us
and our over sensitiveness to those that do;**

**our slowness to see the good in others and the evil in ourselves;
our hardness of heart towards our neighbor's faults
and our readiness to make allowance for our own.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

+SILENT CONFESSION

+WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Listen to the assurance of the grace of God as found in Scripture:

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
God does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love toward those who fear God;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far God removes our transgressions from us.

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.

Therefore I can announce, on the basis of the Scripture,
that if we forgive others, our sins are forgiven.

+RESPONSE OF PRAISE

"Blessed Assurance"

Faith & Praise No. 480

"Blessed Assurance" words by F. Crosby, music by J. Knapp ©1993 Howard Publishing
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***Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of
glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood. This is my
story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the
day long; This is my story, this is my song, Praising
my Savior all the day long.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Shine within our hearts, loving God, the pure light of your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our minds and hearts that we may understand and embrace the message of the Scripture. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

GOSPEL LESSON

[Click Here](#)

John 4:5-22

SERMON

“The Man Born Blind”

Rev. Charles Maxfield

[YouTube Link](#)

+STATEMENT OF FAITH (unison)

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Catholic Church; the communion of

saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

+OFFERING RESPONSE

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Faith & Praise No. 315

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” words by I. Watts; music by G. Chant, L. Mason ©1993 Howard Publishing Co. Inc. CCLI License #11085161

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince
of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss and
pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine that were a
present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

+OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYER HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

[YouTube Link](#)

SHARING PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

- Those who are suffering poor health
- Those who work to maintain basic services, in spite of the risk to themselves, especially persons in the medical professions.
- Any who are losing income and still have bills to pay

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

Blue Hymnal pg. 37

+HYMN “Be Thou My Vision”

[YouTube Link](#)

+COMMISSION & BENEDECTION

Go forth into the world in peace
be of good courage
hold fast to that which is good
render to no one evil for evil
but strengthen the weak

help the afflicted,
honor all persons,
love and serve the Lord
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit
and may grace and peace
from God our father and our Lord Jesus Christ be with
you all. Amen.

+RESPONSE

*God be with you till we meet again. By His counsels
guide uphold you, With His sheep securely fold you.
God be with you till we meet again.*

+POSTLUDE



- * Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex.
- * Weekly Communitas are available on our website.

~All hymns printed using CCLI# 11085161~

Scrapbook Saturday - The Women's Guild will be hosting Scrapbook Saturday. The originally scheduled date has been postponed. We will let you know a new date as soon as we are able to. Thank you for your understanding.

Grocery Gift Cards to Support Missions: Giant, Redner's, & Weis - See Connie Hile

Cemetery Flowers - Please remove all flowers from grave sites by Sunday March 29 in preparation for Spring. Thank you!

Community Children's Egg Hunt – Our annual children's community egg hunt will be on April 11th at 10 am. Donations of individual wrapped candy to fill the eggs is needed. Please place candy in the box in the Narthex. Help will be needed to fill eggs after church on April 5th and to hide eggs on April 11th.

Community Outreach Collection – We will be collecting for Operation 143 (formally Operation Backpack) during April. Below is a list of items needed to fill backpacks for kids each weekend. All items should be individual servings and ready to eat. As always, if you wish to donate but don't want to shop, monetary or Giant gift card donations are welcome. If you have any questions, please see Nikki Weller.

- Tuna To-Go
- Hormel Complete Meals
- Mac & Cheese, SpaghettiOs or Ravioli
- Soup To-Go
- Fruit or Applesauce Cups
- Granola or Cereal Bars
- Pop-Tarts
- Non-Refrigerated Milk
- Snacks/Cracker Packs
- Fruit Snacks
- Juice Boxes
- Water Bottles
- Pudding Cups

April Sponsorship Opportunities

Altar Flowers: 5, 19

Bulletins: 5, 19

If you would like to sponsor an upcoming Sunday, please sign up in the Narthex or contact Nikki in the church office.



Maundy Thursday
with Holy Communion
April 9 at St. John - Hill U.C.C.

Good Friday
April 10 at St. Joseph's (Hill) Lutheran Church
Prayer Vigil - [Sign Up](#)

Children's Easter Egg Hunt
April 11 at 10 am

EASTER

Sunrise Outdoor Worship 6:30 am
At the flagpole in the cemetery • Bring your own chair

Easter Worship 9:30 am
in the sanctuary

Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services.

John 9:1-41

Narrator: As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.

Disciple (to Jesus) Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus: Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Narrator: When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes,

Jesus (to blind man) Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"

Narrator: which means Sent. Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,

Neighbor #1: Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?

Neighbor #2: It is he.

Neighbor #3: "No, but it is someone like him."

Man-born-blind: I am the man.

Neighbor #3: Then how were your eyes opened?

Man-born-blind: The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight.

Neighbor #2: Where is he?

Man-born-blind: I do not know.

Narrator: They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight.

Man-born-blind: He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.

Pharisee #1: This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.

Pharisee #2: How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?

Narrator: And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man,

Pharisee #1: What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.

Man-born-blind: He is a prophet!

Narrator: The Jewish authorities did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them,

Pharisee #1: Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?

Parent of Man-born-blind: We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.

Narrator: His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities; for they had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him,

Pharisee #1: Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."

Man-born-blind: I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.

Pharisee #2: What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

Man-born-blind: I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?

Pharisee #1: You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.

Man-born-blind: Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

Pharisee #1 You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?”

Narrator: And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and found him

Jesus: Do you believe in the Son of Man?

Man-born-blind: And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.

Jesus: You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.

Man-born-blind: Lord, I believe.

Narrator: And he worshiped him.

Jesus I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”

Pharisee #2: Surely we are not blind, are we?

Jesus: If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.