

**St. John United Church of Christ**  
**“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”**

March 15, 2026

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent (A)

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor

David R. Ekstrand, Dir. of Music

9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship

9:30 Sunday School for Children

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Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

***Bold italic denotes congregation reads or sings.***

\*Denotes all who are able, please stand.

**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A SMILE AND WAVE

\*RESPONSE<sup>1</sup> ***“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights”***

Vs. 1 #250

***Throughout these Lenten days and nights  
we turn to walk the inward way,  
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,  
we live in hope till Easter Day.***

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said, “Rise and anoint [the youngest son David] for this is the one.” (Vs. 12b)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Based on Ephesians 5:8-14

We are called to walk as children of light,

***The fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.***

And so, as we worship, we seek to find what is pleasing to the Lord.

***And we repent of all that is not fruitful and not pleasing to the Lord.***

Let us pray:

**Holy One, your children of every age desire to honor you and live in your holy light. Help us to see the goodness you intend and the miracles of compassion you offer to all. Make our faith visible to all the world, as we work in the light of Christ and in his ways. Amen.**

\*HYMN

**“Open My Eyes, That I May See”**

#480

LENTEN INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me, if you seek me with all your heart.

LENTEN PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we confess that we need your presence and your guidance and support. We ask for your Spirit to live within us. And yet these desires are often pushed aside by our fear of what others may think or say or do. We often seek scapegoats to blame, or try to avoid responsibility. We declare we believe, but too often we mumble and grumble about what we don't understand. When we deny our faith, forgive us, O God, restore us, and make us bold to declare again, “Lord, I believe.” Amen.**

LENTEN ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John 3:17

Believe the good news! God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

FIRST GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-17

pg. 96

ANTHEM

*Bridge Over Troubled Water*

Chancel Choir

SECOND GOSPEL READING

John 9:18-41

pg. 97

MEDITATION

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\*HYMN

**“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”**

#419

PASTORAL PRAYER & UNISON 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.***

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION INCLUDING ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

\*RESPONSE **“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

Vss. 1 & 4 #261

***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 an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***With eyes and hearts open to the needs of the world, we offer these gifts, O God. May they bring your light into the world and be fruitful in spreading your healing mercy and love everywhere. Bless our discipleship as we offer hope to the hurting and the promise of everlasting joy to all. Amen.***

\*HYMN

**“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**

#264

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*God, We Praise You!*

1“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” Words: James Germainian (1947-)  
Music: William H. Havergal (1793-1870).

We thank Connie Ahlers for serving as liturgist, and Garret Garner for serving as greeter.