

St. Philip's United Church of Christ

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www.stphilipsucc.com

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Pastor: Rev. Laura Mignerone

Council President: Sandy Stevenson

Administrative Assistant: Carol O'Shea

Youth Director: Andrea Tukin

Liturgist: Pam Henson

Music Director: Mike Orzel

*indicates that you may rise as comfortably able
(text in bold read in unison)

Fourth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

* CALL TO WORSHIP - Worship Ways (Responsively)

Kindred of God, a new vision of leadership is called forth and God calls upon the least likely, the unheard of, and the humble of heart to assemble to receive anointing.

In peace, we anoint the forgotten, the youngest, smallest, and unlikeliest of siblings whom God has raised up to serve.

Though the call may involve risk and danger, we are called to listen, obey, and live a love unwavering.

In peace, we anoint the disinherited and dismissed.

God's call does not depend on our outward appearance or our earthly achievements.

In peace, we anoint neighbor and kin alike, knowing God looks upon the heart. Let us open our hearts to God this day. AMEN.

* OPENING HYMN: "There is a Balm in Gilead" # 501

Refrain

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. (Refrain)

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus, and say, "He died for all!" (Refrain)

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge He'll ne'er refuse to lend. (Refrain)

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION - Worship Ways (Together)

Anointed One, your love comes peaceably into our lives if we will but let it. We are so fixated on the gold standard, the familiar, and the safe choice that we often lose sight of what you are raising up right in our very midst. Enliven us with your Spirit this day so that we might get a glimpse of your peace. Take what we might imagine as too small for your kingdom and use it to open the world to your overflowing abundance and provision for all that you have created. In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. AMEN.

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

RESPONSE: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.

Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight,

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them.

For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

SCRIPTURE: John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "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."

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, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (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, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "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." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

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. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews 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, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "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."

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews 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, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "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."

The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but 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." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

HYMN: "Open My Eyes, That I May See" # 586

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

SERMON: "Eyes to See"

Rev. Laura Mignerone

ANTHEM: "He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Your 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.**

MISSION MOMENT: Isaiah 58 Ministries - Rev. Meredith Jackson

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

Offertory

* Doxology #46 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host:

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication - Worship Ways (Together)

Generous God, you remind us that you “anoint our heads with oil” and that our “cup overflows” with your abundance. We do not take for granted all that you provide. Take these gifts and use them for the healing and tender care of your hurting world. May your cup of love overflow and abide with the hurting and heartbroken, forgotten and despised, so that we may all be made whole. AMEN.

* CLOSING HYMN: “For Beauty of Meadows” # 696

For beauty of meadows, for grandeur of trees,
for flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas,
for all you created and gave us to share,
we praise you, Creator, extolling your care.

As stewards of beauty received at your hand,
as creatures who hear your most urgent command,
we turn from our wasteful destruction of life,
confessing our failures, confessing our strife.

Teach us once again to be gardeners in peace,
all nature around us is ours but on lease;
your name we would hallow in all that we do,
fulfilling our calling, creating with you.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

TOUR THE HOLY LAND

SERIES CONTINUES

Tour of the Holy Land (on video) continues after church on **Sunday March 19**. We will view the second episode of "Walking the Bible" a PBS series by Bruce Feiler, which focuses on Joseph, the Egyptian Captivity, and the Exodus.

The video lasts about 45 minutes and snacks will be provided.

OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS

During Lent we are collecting food and clothing for Isaiah 58 Ministries. While any shelf stable food items are needed, certain items are needed most. A list of these items can be found on the display table in the Gathering Space. Spring and Summer clothing items for all ages are also needed. Isaiah 58 has provided a calendar with Lenten Activities, and copies are available on the display table. Thanks in advance for your generosity to this very worthy cause.

FAMILY FUN OUTING

Join the families of St. Philip's UCC at the Museum of Transportation on **Sunday, March 19!** We will meet at 2pm and stay until close (4pm). If you'd like to go to the museum earlier, feel free!

Afterwards, join us for dinner out (TBD). Anyone interested is welcome to join us.

Please let Andrea Tugin know if you plan to attend at andreatugin@gmail.com or (314) 566-8633.

BOOK CLUB

Our March Selection is 'Educated' by Tara Westover will be discussed on **Sunday, April 2**.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY!

On Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm, through April 4, we will gather via Zoom for a weekly book study: "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws" by Adam Hamilton. Each week, we will discuss one chapter, finishing the book during Holy Week just before Easter. The Zoom link is below and will remain the same for the duration of the study. Contact Pastor Laura with questions. Hope you will join us!

Zoom Info for the Lenten Book Study

To join from smartphone/tablet/computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8352544400>

To dial in from cell phone/landline: 1-312-626-6799 and then 8352544400#



Easter Flowers

Let's help beautify the sanctuary with spring flowers for Easter. Easter Lilies, Azaleas, and Hydrangeas are available.

The spring flowers will decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 9th.

You may take your plants home after the Easter Sunday service or make arrangements to pickup the following week if unable to attend.

Make check payable to 'Walter Knoll Florist'

Name _____

_____	Easter Lilies	\$12.50
_____	Hydrangea - Blue	\$20.00
_____	Azalea - Pinks	\$20.00
_____	Mum	\$10.00
_____	Tulip - Assorted	\$10.00

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

You can drop your order form and payment in the offering plate or turn in to Carol in the church office **by noon on Monday, March 27th**.

LOGOS SCHEDULE

LOGOS plans to meet on March 29 and every Wednesday in April. We gather from 5:30-7:00pm and would love for members of the congregation to join us!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Karen Moran	2
Pam Schiele Stang	4
Joyce Thuston	5
Dawn Knoll	11
Scott Karcher	14
Frances Kalbfleish	15
Samuel Slavik	18
Jason Karcher	21
Clara Hornung	26
Meghan Mikusch	27
Holly Slavik	27
Elaine Kimker	28
Kali Hladnick	29
Shirley Nottelmann	29
Shirley Illert	30

Please wear your name tag during worship.
Thank you!

WORSHIP LISTENING DEVICES

Listening devices used during worship are now available in the Admin Assistant Office as you walk in the door to the right.

EASTER EGG HUNT - APRIL 8 CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED

St. Philip's is hosting their annual Easter Egg Hunt this year on Saturday, April 8 at 10am. We hope you and your family & friends can join! We are collecting individually wrapped candy to put into Easter Eggs. There is a bunny basket in the gathering space through April 2.

If you'd be willing to volunteer to help hide eggs, sit at a craft table, or lead a game, please let Andrea Tukin know at andreatukin@gmail.com or by call/text (314) 566-8633. Thank you!

EASTER BREAKFAST

Church Council has decided we are going to have our Easter Breakfast this year. It would be nice to see everyone's smiling faces!

Join us on Easter Sunday, **April 9, at 9:30am** for breakfast in the MPR followed by Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30am. In order to get a headcount for table/chair setup, see the Lilac sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, contact Carol in the church office, or call Carole Armistead at 314-560-6658. Please **signup by Thursday, April 6.**

Also bring your favorite food item that you would like to share with everyone (it is not necessary to indicate what you are bringing on the sign-up sheet).

SPRING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Please plan to attend this very important meeting to be held immediately following the April 16 worship service. New committee and Church Council members will be voted on. Ministry Team Reports will be available on Sunday, April 2 just outside the sanctuary so that you can review them prior to the meeting.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND PICNIC IN THE PARK

All are welcome to join for an outdoor worship following St. Philip's usual worship.

We will meet at Suson Park on **Sunday, April 16** at 11:30 am to worship and then enjoy each other's company while we eat and play! Please let Andrea know if you plan to attend at andreatukin@gmail.com or (314) 566-8633.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Tour the Holy Land/ 'Walking the Bible' 2:00-4:00 Family Outing @ Museum of Transportation	20	21 6:00 Lenten Book Study	22 NO LOGOS	23	24 April CRIER Articles due	25 10:00-3:00 Quilters
26 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School	27 noon Easter Flower Orders Due 4:45 ECC Board Mtg	28 6:00 Lenten Book Study	29 5:30-7:00 LOGOS	30	31	1 April
2 Palm Sunday 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Book Club	3 7:00 Church Council Mtg	4 6:00 Lenten Book Study	5 5:30-7:00 LOGOS	6 Signup for Easter Breakfast	7 2:00 Good Friday Worship	8 10:00 Easter Egg Hunt
9 Easter Sunday 9:30 Easter Breakfast 10:30 Worship In-person, Facebook 10:45 Sunday School	10	11	12 5:30-7:00 LOGOS	13	14	15
16 9:30 Worship In-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Spring Congregational Meeting 11:30 Worship in the Park	17	18	19 5:30-7:00 LOGOS	20	21	22



**Our
Vision
Statement**

St. Philip's Vision Statement

We are called to the body of Jesus Christ, with:

Minds to study God's word,
Mouths to proclaim the Gospel,
Eyes to see the needs of others,
Arms to welcome all,

Hearts big enough to share God's love with all God's children.



Joyce Brand

Grace Heady

Virginia Hladnick

Marilyn Milne

Sue Myers

Jered Nagle

Shirley Nottelmann

Paul Shrout

Lily Swanson

Paula Williams



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