

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 22, 2020

COMING BEFORE GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Peggy Stout

PRELUDE

Marty Light, Organist

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*Responsively*)

Kathy Winters, Liturgist

God invites us into his healing presence with these words: "I am the Lord, who heals you."

***Diseased, depressed, dysfunctional, defeated, we come
hungering for health that only God can provide.***

God calls us to bring open eyes, hearing ears, and tender hearts turned toward him, the Great Physician.

We bow before him in faith and expectancy!

*ORGAN INTROIT

Marty Light

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Responsively*)

Kathy Winters, Liturgist

God of mercy, who longs to gather us in the wide embrace of your love, we confess that we have been wayward children.

We have disobeyed your commands. In thought, word, and deed we have hurt others and dishonored your name. Forgive us, O Lord!

In your great mercy receive us yet again as your well-beloved children, not because we are worthy, but for the sake of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

We ask all these things in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (*Responsively*)

Rev. Peggy Stout

The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our lives. As God's forgiven

*SPECIAL MUSIC

Marty Light

*BENEDICTION (*Responsively*)

Rev. Peggy Stout

Creator God, our Strength and our Redeemer, you invite us, the church, to accept the cost and joy of discipleship and to be your servants in the service of others.

In so doing, may your presence be our guide and Jesus our model, and may we respond in loving faithfulness to all of your children especially in this time of crisis in our lives and the lives of those around our world. Amen.

*CHIMES

*POSTLUDE

Marty Light

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ 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. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ 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.

John 9:13-21, 24-29

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ 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.' ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. ¹⁷ 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.' ¹⁸ 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 ¹⁹ and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' ²⁰ His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ 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.'

²⁴ 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.' ²⁵ He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' ²⁶ They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' ²⁷ 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?' ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.'