

An Order for the Worship of God

March 19, 2023

Ring of the Bells

Welcome & Announcements - Candle Lighting and Prelude

*Please stand, if able

* Call to Worship: based on Psalm 23 (Liturgist – Congregation)

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.

*Opening Hymn: #328, The Old Rugged Cross, v. 1,3 & 4

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, who created us in God's own image, we are grateful for all that you have done for us, for all that you are doing in us, and for all that you will do through us. Open our eyes to see your presence among us, moving in powerful ways at all times and in all places. Open our ears to hear familiar words in new ways - ways that will change us and challenge us to become the people you created us to be. Grant us the power and the courage to come out of the darkness and into the light of Jesus Christ, that we may serve you by serving others. We love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray Our Father ... (debts/debtors)

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain, we would rather shut our eyes and be blind than see things as they really are. Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world, and give us the strength to bring your light to those who walk in darkness. Help us see others as you see them, and forgive us when

we do not trust you enough to open our eyes to the possibilities before us. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Christ came to lead us in paths of righteousness and to guide us through our lives. Christ is with us in times of danger and times of peace. The goodness and mercy of God are given to us each and every day of our lives. God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love, and leads us to the place that Christ has prepared for us. Believe in your heart that God loves you and forgives you. We believe! God help our unbelief! **Amen**

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri: #558 (PILGRIM)

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: May the reading and the hearing of Your word inform our minds, comfort our souls and guide our feet.

Sermon: Man's Eyes Opened

*Responsive Hymn: #354, Open My Eyes, That I May See

Congregational Prayer

L: Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer

Call for the Offering

Let us share God's blessings, as we collect our tithes and offerings.

*Doxology #562 (Pilgrim)

Offering Prayer

God of Grace and Mercy, you call us to be servants in your Son's holy name. Accept this offering as a profound gesture of our desire to serve you today and always. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: I Lay My Sins on Jesus, Insert

Benediction

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord in the name of Christ.

Amen.

*Extinguishing the Candles

Postlude

Worship Leaders

Interim Minister

Liturgist

Director of Music

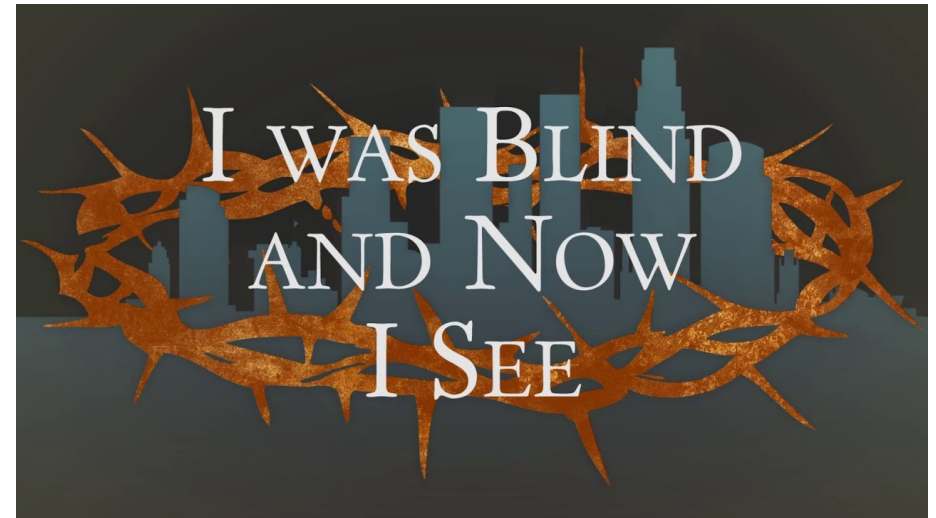
Sunday School Director

Jerry Eisner

Mary Kugel

Sue Laubenheimer

Julie Kluck



Welcome Visitors! Thank you for joining this congregation for worship this morning. You are welcome and encouraged to participate in all functions of the church including communion and fellowship. Please pick up a *Welcome!* Folder as you exit the church to learn more about the offerings of St. Jacobi Congregational Church!
We are happy you are here!

www.stjacobichurch.org

262-628-3234

**ST. JACOBI
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**