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March 26, 2017

Fourth Sunday in Lent – “A New Light”

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all.  
All points marked \* those who are able are invited to stand.)

## Approach

Welcome and Announcements

\* Gathering Hymn VU #343 – “*I Love to Tell the Story*”

Opening Reflections

Sung Response

**Come, let us follow footsteps on the way -  
Prints of the one, who taught us how to pray.  
Look to the cross, it is a sign of peace.  
Let all the world, with love, its conflict cease.**

Call to Worship

One: Lest we think

**All: The blessing is not in the dirt.**

One: Lest we think

**All: The blessing is not in the earth beneath our feet.**

One: Lest we think

**All: The blessing is not in the dust**

One: Like the dust that God scooped up at the beginning

**All: And formed with God’s two hands and breathed into with  
God’s own breath.**

One: Lest we think

**All: The blessing is not in the mud.**

One: Lest we think

**All: The blessing is not in the mire, the grime, the muck.**

One: Lest we think

**All: That God cannot reach deep into the things of earth,**

One: Cannot bring forth the blessing

**All: Cannot anoint us with a tender and grimy grace.**

One: Lest we think

**All: That God will not use the ground to create us once again, to  
cleanse us of our unseeing, to open our eyes upon this  
ordinary and stunning world.**

One: Lest we think

**All: That God is here in this place today.**

\* Opening Hymn VU #371 – “*Open My Eyes*”

Prayer of Approach and Confession

**Your light shines in the darkness, O God, and we  
confess that sometimes we prefer to hide under cover of  
darkness, where we are free to participate in injustice, to hurt  
others and ourselves, to do whatever it takes to get ahead, to  
operate only in our comfort zone without challenge. We forget  
that your light of true freedom will shine, calling us to a more  
excellent way. We forget that the promise of a child is a promise  
for the future—that there is more beyond us, beyond our  
desires, beyond our brokenness, beyond our understanding.  
Forgive our short-sightedness. Forgive our hardened hearts.  
Forgive our complicity in systems that hurt and abuse your  
earth, your people, your church, your world. Shine your light  
again this day, that we may see and follow your path. AMEN**

Assurance of Pardon

Children’s Time / The Lord’s Prayer

\* Hymn VU #747 – “*The Lord’s My Shepherd*”

## The Word

📖 Scripture Reading – Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9: 1-41

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

Meditation – “What does it mean?”

(a quiet time for your personal reflection and prayer)

Anthem – “Amazing Grace” (My Chains are Gone)

## The Response

\* Offering / Response

**Let the cross be our glory, and the Lord be our song,  
By mercy made holy, by the Spirit made strong.  
Let the cross be glory, and the Lord be our song,  
Til the likeness of Jesus be through us made known.  
Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song.**

Pastoral Prayer

\* Closing Hymn VU #560 – “*O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*”

\* Benediction / Response

**Grace alone which God supplies,  
Strength unknown He will provide.  
Christ in us, our Cornerstone,  
We will go forth in grace alone.**

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Patrick Woodbeck, Student Minister

Laura Steidl, Music Director

Luci Toews, Office Administrator

Myrna Hagues, Organist

Sarah Closen, Liturgist

Gina Grant, Custodian

Ushers: Sheryl Stephen and Edna Erickson

Greeters: Gloria & Doug Waldron