

Dear Members and Friends of Town and Country,

Below is our first attempt of a worship/devotion for our time of "Worship in Place". By next week we hope to be set up at church to send the video to you. Matt K. will give you directions how to download the video.

In this time of "wilderness" and uncertainty our prayers for our nation is important, our care of self, and others, and our witness as God's people needs to be evident.

Be patient, be strong in the Lord, and be blessed,
Pastor Fickenscher

Worship Service for March 22, 2020

HYMN **"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"** *(LSB 733, vs. 1,2,6)*

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.**

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!**

INVOCATION

PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.

¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”

¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!

¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the Lord?

²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.

²¹The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

EPISTLE*Ephesians 5:8-14*

⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

GOSPEL*John 9:13-17, 34-39*

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

HYMN **“Amazing Grace”** (*LSB 744, vs. 1-3*)

**Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!**

**The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.**

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MESSAGE *“Darkness and Light - Blindness and Sight”*

YOUR PRAYERS

LORD’S PRAYER

BLESSING

Go in the power, forgiveness and peace of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

HYMN **“God Bless Our Native Land”** (*LSB 965*)

**God bless our native land;
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might.**

**So shall our prayers arise
To God above the skies;
On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry:
God save the state!**