

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 15, 2026**

**Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC**

**“Listen and See”**

**United in Christ’s love, a just world for all**

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

## March 15, 2026

Singing Prelude

*Open the Eyes of My Heart*

Smith

### Open the Eyes of My Heart

Michael Smith

O-pen the eyes of my heart, Lord, o-pen the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see you, I want to see you;

Welcome and Announcements

### We Approach God's Presence

Meditation/Bringing in the Light of Christ

*Be Thou My Vision*

Trad. Irish Melody

Introit

*40 Days in the Desert*  
Bella Handbell Choir

Peters

### Responsive Call to Worship

In a world quick to judge and slow to listen, God invites us to pause.

**We come to listen for God's voice among us.**

In a world where we think we already know the story,

Christ invites us to hear it again.

**We come with open minds and humble hearts.**

Sight does not come all at once;

it grows through questions, stories, and the courage to listen.

**Turn us around.**

**Teach us to listen with curiosity and see with compassion.**

Come, people of God—Come and see God. Here with us. Standing among us. All this time.

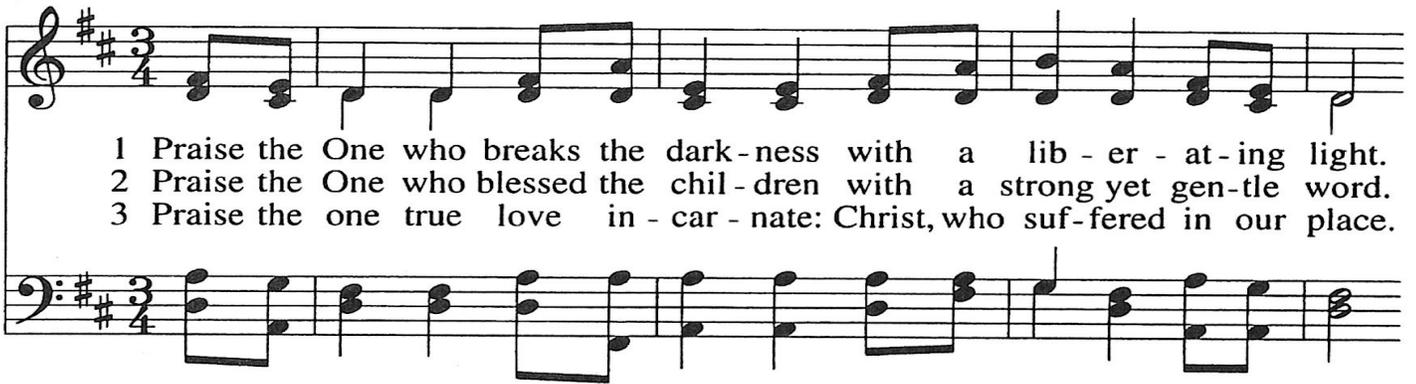
**Turn us around again.**

**We come to worship the One who opens our ears  
and teaches our hearts to see.**

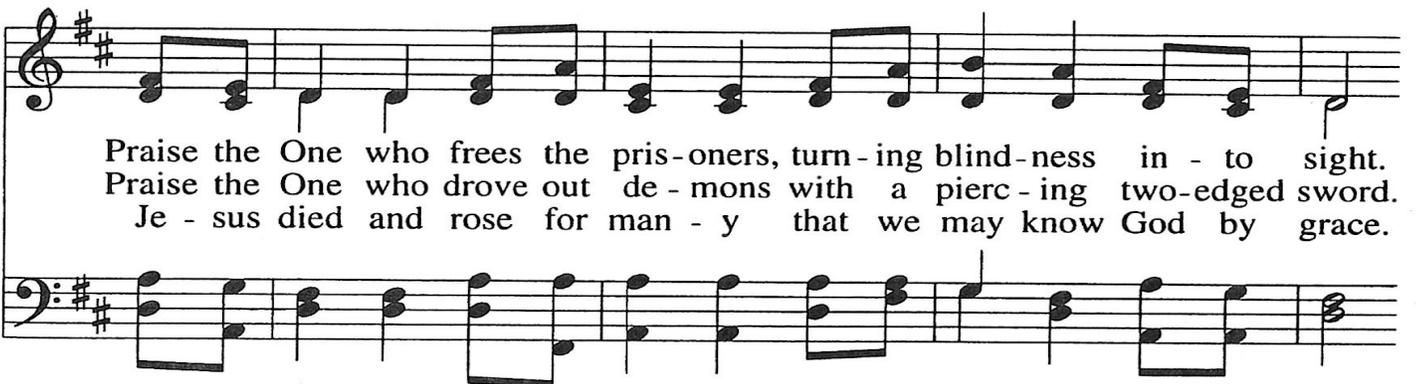
\*Hymn

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

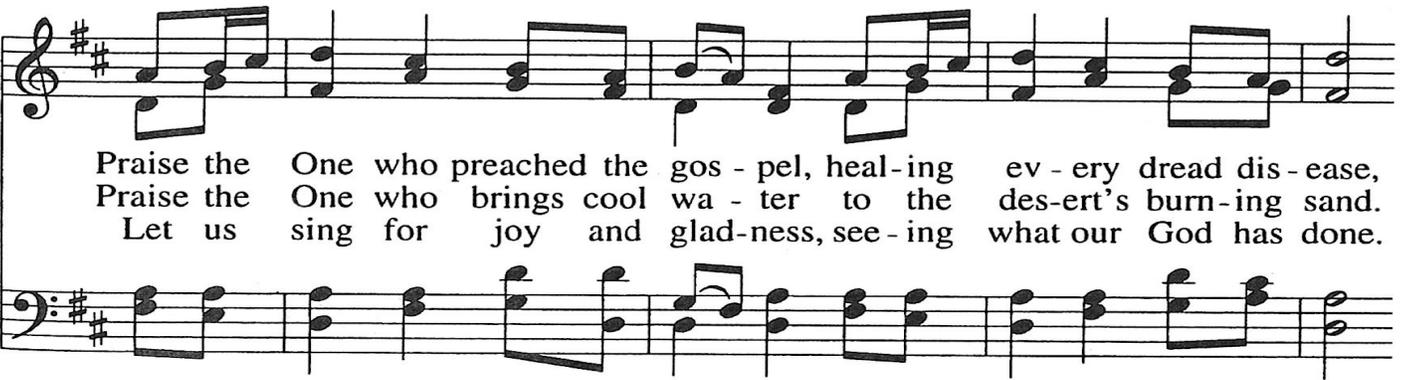
# Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



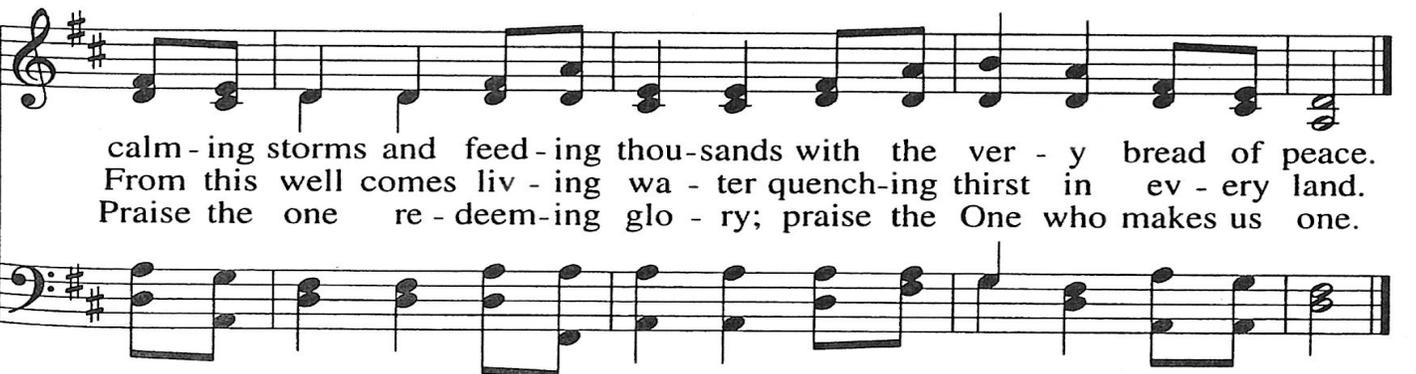
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light.  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word.  
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place.



Praise the One who frees the pris - oners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
Praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing two - edged sword.  
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - ery dread dis - ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand.  
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
From this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - ery land.  
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

## **\*Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

God of light and truth,

you know how easily we mistake certainty for wisdom.

We assume we understand the world before we have truly listened.

We decide who is right and who is wrong

before we have heard the whole story.

Like the crowds in the gospel story,

we sometimes argue about what we think we see

while missing the person standing right in front of us.

**Turn us around, Holy One.**

Teach us the humility of listening.

Teach us the patience to sit with questions

instead of rushing toward judgment.

Teach us to hear the testimonies of others

with curiosity rather than suspicion.

**Open our eyes to the ways you are already at work  
in lives different from our own.**

**And as we listen—**

**to our neighbors,**

**to the wounded,**

**to the stranger—**

**Open our hearts to the deeper sight**

**that comes only from your grace. Amen**

## **\*Words of Grace**

God is not finished opening our eyes.

God is not finished writing our stories.

In Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited to see again.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **\*Response**

*Amazing Grace*

Newton/Walker

**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.**

## **We Encounter God in the Word**

### **Contemporary Lesson**

*Between the Listening and the Telling*

Mark Yaconelli

God is still speaking. **Thanks be to God!**

### **Anthem**

*Gentle Shepherd*

Gaither

**We Respond to God’s Grace**

**Congregational Prayers**

**Silent Prayers**

**Prayers of the People and Our Lord’s Prayer**

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

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Musical Response**

*Heal Me, Hands of Jesus*

**Heal Me, Hands of Jesus**

Heal me, hands of Je - sus, and search out all my pain;  
 Fill me, joy of Je - sus: anx - i - e - ty shall cease  
 re - store my hope, re - move my fear and bring me peace a - gain.  
 and heaven’s se - ren - i - ty be mine, for Je - sus brings me peace!

WORDS: Michael Perry (1942-1996)  
 MUSIC: Herbert S. Irons (1834-1905), alt.  
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SOUTHWELL  
 S.M.

**We Share God’s Love**

**Invitation to Generosity**

*(Offering plates are found by each doorway for your use.)*

**\*Song of Gratitude**

*Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

**\*Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

God of vision and hope,

Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude as they witness to the story  
you are still writing among us.

May they support communities where people are truly heard.

May they strengthen voices that speak truth and justice.

May they help others discover that their lives and stories matter. Use these  
offerings—and use us—to listen more deeply, to see more clearly, and to share the  
good news of your transforming love. Amen.

**We Go to Carry the Light**

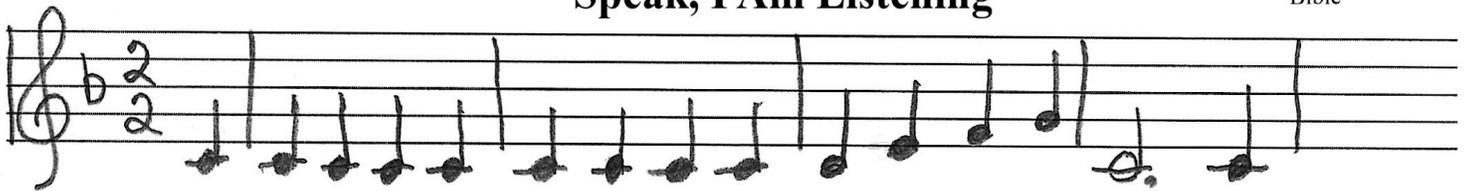
**\*Hymn**

*Speak, I Am Listening*

Bible

**Speak, I Am Listening**

Bible



**\*Blessing and Benediction**

**\*Sending Blessing**                      *Blessed Assurance* (Refrain)                      Crosby  
**This is my story, this is my song, praising my savior all the day long.** (Repeat)

**Postlude**                                      *Largo* from *Xerxes*                                      Handel  
**Please remain seated in silence for the Postlude as the Light of Christ is carried into the world. The worship has ended; our service begins**

Worship materials are taken from Mark Yaconelli. *Between the Listening and the Telling: How Stories Can Save Us.* Broadleaf Books: Minneapolis, MN, 2022. Pp 15-16.

**Supporting Our Service Today**

**Acolyte:** Bella Clapham                      **Liturgist:** Ellen Schleicher  
**Gospel Lesson Participants:** Barbara Allaire, Jeff Cook, Harold Steindam,  
Sara Stafford, Lauri Sanford, Patty Fjetland, Phillip Munsey,  
Jane Chittick, Gary Leidheiser, Mer Zovko, Paul Chebator

**Welcome Table:** George Ikeda      **Greeters:** Fred and Cyndi Carley  
**Head Usher:** Linda Newton      **Usher Team:** Jim Daugherty, Kathy Hare,  
Steve Hemping, Nancy Knudson, Char Raitt, Dick Schleicher

**Technology Team**

*(Live Streaming, Camera, and Sound Technicians)*  
Gary Woodrum, Debra Mosely, Maria Groody, David Jack, Linda Newton,  
Wally Davis, Patty Fjetland, Scott Mellen, Gary and Sharon Leidheiser

The **Lord's Table** was decorated by Victoria Augustine  
The **Sanctuary Flowers** are given by A Friend of VUCC

The **Church Sign** was changed by Faye Newton and Lisa Sclafani  
**Sunday Librarian:** Sherry Howe  
**Fellowship Time:** Wendy Seeley

**Senior Minister**

**Rev. Barbara Dickason**

**Music Staff**

**Barbara Quinn:** *Music Director*

**Lynda Weston:** *Bella Handbell Director*

**Other Staff**

**Gary Leidheiser:** *Custodian*

**Barb Quinn:** *Office Assistant*

**Church office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9-1**

**Would you like to donate to VUCC online? Use your Smart Phone to scan the QR code on the right, and it will take you directly to our donations page. It is really easy!**



**This Week at a Glance**

**Monday, March 16**

12:00 PM SpiritFed!

Noon Bible Study via Zoom (link below)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83576594637?pwd=U2024sKmOPiy3CyMqV4OarYUtofaom.1>

Meeting ID: 835 7659 4637

Passcode: 913882

(The easiest way to connect is to use the link in the Connect.)

**6:30 PM Bridge - Parlor**

**Tues. 03-17**

**9:00 AM** Staff Meeting

**11:30 AM** St. Patrick's Day Soup Luncheon—  
Naar Hall

**1:30 PM** Leadership Council—CR

**6:00 PM** Girl Scouts

**Wed. 03-18**

**9:00 AM-12:00** Library open

**10:00 AM** Bible Study—CR

**1:00 PM** Cut-Ups—CR

**6:30 PM** Choir Rehearsal

**Thurs. 03-19**

**2:00 PM** Human Resources—Parlor

**4:00 PM** Baby Basics—Naar Hall

**4:00 PM** Handbell Rehearsal—Sanctuary

**6:00 PM** Daisies

**Fri. 03-20**

**8:30 AM** Men's Weekly Coffee at Panera

**1:00 PM** Book Discussion—Parlor

**Sat. 03-21**

**10:30 AM** VADC—Naar Hall

**Sun. 03-22**

**9:00 AM** Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

**9:00 AM** Library Hour

**10:00 AM** Worship (in situ and virtual)

**After Worship**

Fellowship Time—Naar Hall

Library Open

**Immokalee Offerings Still Accepted**

Alan's update last week showed great progress in Immokalee. To help, just make your check Payable to VUCC with Immokalee in the memo line and put it in the offering plate.

**Coming Events**

- \*\*11:30 AM, Tuesday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day Soup Luncheon—Naar Hall
- \*\*12:00 Noon, Monday, April 6, Women's Luncheon at Burgundy Square Café
  - 10:00 AM, Saturday, March 28, Easter Egg Hunt (details TBA)
    - March 29, Palm Sunday
  - \*\*6:00 PM, April 2, Maundy Thursday meal and service—Naar Hall
    - 7:00 PM, April 3, Good Friday service—Sanctuary
      - April 5, Easter

“Sonrise” service at 7:00 AM—beside the sanctuary

Worship at 10:00 AM

Remember to bring a few fresh flowers to put on the cross in the atrium on Easter morning.

- 3:00 PM, Saturday, April 18, Movie—*Mission Joy*—Naar Hall
- **Sunday, April 26, Annual Meeting after Worship—Naar Hall**

\*\*Sign up in Naar Hall