



Consider the following options to center yourself for worship:

**BREATHING PRAYER:** (Psalm 23:1)

*In For A Count Of 4: **The Lord is My Shepherd ...***

*Out For A Count Of 4: **... I Shall Not Want.***

**REFLECT ON QUOTE**

*“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”*

~ Helen Keller

**READ SCRIPTURES**

Psalm 23    John 9:1-41

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 15, 2026

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

PRELUDE

Son of God, Eternal Savior

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Setting 1

Jerry Bursch, Organ

Music: Michael Burkhardt, MorningStar Music Publishers / Birnamwood Publications, ©1922, Song # 97535  
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WELCOME / OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH AND SERVICE

Pastor Matt

\*Please rise in body and spirit.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Melissa Pryor

Once you lived in darkness.

**Now the light of God has shone upon us.**

Find what is pleasing to God and follow God's ways.

**The acts of darkness are left behind as we journey to God's light.**

Thanks be to God who gives us the light.

**Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your light of salvation.**

(© Nancy Townley)

\*HYMN

*O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing (vs. 1-2,3,5,7)*

UMH 57

CCLI / Streaming # 1256912 / 20574634

Song # 7028712

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life, and health, and peace.
5. He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.
7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know,  
shall feel your sins forgiven;  
anticipate your heaven below,  
and own that love is heaven.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

\*Please rise in body and spirit.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Melissa Pryor

**In our weakness, Loving Shepherd, we often fear what we do not understand. Heal our blindness and teach us to see as you see, that we may perceive the world through your mercy and truth. We long to lie down in safety and rise as people born anew in the light of your love. Open our eyes to behold your glory this day, that we may reflect your light for all to see. Amen.**

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SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 and ever. Amen.**

\*HYMN:

*Be Thou My Vision*

UMH 451

CCLI / Streaming # 1256912 / 20574634  
Song # 3063376

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day or by night;  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

3. Great God of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

\*Please rise in body and spirit.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 23, John 9:1-41

Melissa Pryor

Psalm 23 (NRSVue)

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.

John 9:1-41 (NRSVue)

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and

\*Please rise in body and spirit.

beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. 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.”

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 and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, 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.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

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.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 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?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered

\*Please rise in body and spirit.

him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

Pastor Matt

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Open Our Eyes*

TFWS 2086

CCLI / Streaming # 1256912 / 20574634

Song # 1572

Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch him,  
and say that we love him.

Open our ears, Lord,  
and help us to listen.

Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

We live out our membership vows by offering our prayers, our presence, our service, our gifts, and our witness. In this way, we glorify God with our whole lives.

BELL OFFERING

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

arr. Kevin McChesney

Bell Choir Jerry Bursch, Director

Music: Kevin McChesney, Lorenz Publishing Corporation, The, ©1996, Song #995798. Permission to reprint,

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\*DOXOLOGY      *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*      (UM Hymnal 95)

CCLI / Streaming: 1256912 / 20574634

CCLI Song #56204

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Melissa Pryor

**Loving Lord, we confess how often we walk in shadows, blind to the brightness of your love. Yet even still, you call us to bear your light into the world. Help us reflect that radiance through our giving. Let these gifts shine with the hope of Christ, who lived, died, and rose for our sake. Amen.**

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\*HYMN

*Lord Whose Love In Humble Service*

UMH 581

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1. Lord, whose love through humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
offered mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose  
every gift which you impart.

2. Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As O Lord, your deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,

\*Please rise in body and spirit.

use the love your Spirit kindles  
still to save and make us whole.

3. As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to tireless striving,  
your abundant life to share.

4. Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Matt

\*HYMN OF PARTING

*Shalom to You*

CCLI / Streaming # 1256912 / 20574634  
Song #1913569

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.  
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.  
In all your living and through all your loving  
Christ be your shalom. Christ be your shalom.

POSTLUDE

Son of God, Eternal Savior  
Setting 2  
Jerry Bursch, Organ

arr. Michael Burkhardt

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***Serving in Worship Today***

Greeter: Cathy Brocker  
Ushers: Linda Whitney & Malin Williams  
Liturgist: Melissa Pryor  
Music Director: Jerry Bursch  
Pastor: Rev. Matthew M. McPhee

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Video of today's worship can be found at [www.indioumc.org/media](http://www.indioumc.org/media) Contact  
the Church Office at 760-347-1046 or [office@indioumc.org](mailto:office@indioumc.org). Secure online  
contributions to the church can be made on our Church App  
or at [www.indioumc.org/give](http://www.indioumc.org/give).

**CALENDAR:**

**March 15**– You are invited to Coffee Fellowship after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Special  
Thanks to Linda White for Coffee Fellowship.

**March 15**– **Youth Group** (grades 6-12) - **5:00 PM** in the youth room. Dinner provided.  
Contact Margie (youth director) or Melissa for more information.

**March 16-20** – **New Day Devotions 8:00 AM** via Zoom. (Link available in weekly e-news or by  
contacting the office)

**March 17** —**Bell Choir Practice 3:00 PM** in the Sanctuary.

**March 17**—**Lenten Bible Study 5:00pm w/Pastor Matt** in the Adult Classroom & Online.

**March 18**– **Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM** at Sloan's Restaurant in Indio.

**March 18**—**Tai Chi 10:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall.

**March 22**—**Chancel Choir Practice 8:20 AM** in the Sanctuary.

**March 22** —**Adult Bible Studies 9:00 AM** in the Adult Classroom.

**March 22** – **Worship 10:00 AM** in the Sanctuary, followed by Coffee Fellowship in the  
Fellowship Hall.

***Stay Connected – Download our App***



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