

# WORSHIP GUIDE for MARCH 20, 2022

## SETTING YOUR SPACE

Hi, Friends. I hope you can join us for the third Sunday of our elemental Lent: we'll be talking about the messiness of our lives and our world as we read a story about Jesus playing in the *mud*, and making some good things happen with it. When has the mess of your life been a blessing?

If you choose to come in person, know that the church has decided masks will be optional, for now – that said, many are continuing to wear masks for our gatherings. Come however you feel safe and comfortable. If you join in from home, let us know in the comments that you're here!

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Prelude – Geoff Clayton, Pianist**

**Welcome – Rev. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor**

**Gathering Song: *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (NC Hymnal #31)**

**– Nancy McCann, Corine Manroe, Susan Chambers,  
Judee Kunze, Geoff Clayton**

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors and made their tiny wings.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.

The purple headed mountain, the river running by,  
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.

### **Gathering Prayer**

#### **& Communal Prayer *from the Center for Action and Contemplation***

**- Sam Ross**

God, Lord of all creation, lover of life and of everything, please help us to love in our very small way what You love infinitely and everywhere. We thank You that we can offer just this one prayer and that will be more than enough, because in reality every thing and every one is connected, and nothing stands alone. To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole, and so we do. Help us each day to stand for love, for healing, for the good, for the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation, because we know this is what You desire: as Jesus prayed, that all may be one. We offer our prayer together with all the holy names of God, we offer our prayer together with Christ, our Lord, Amen.

### **Children's Time - Sean P. Williams**

#### **Scripture: John 9:1-12**

*As Jesus walked along, he saw someone who had been blind from birth. The disciples asked Jesus, "Rabbi, was it this individual's sin that caused the blindness, or that of the parents?" "Neither," answered Jesus, "it*

*wasn't because of anyone's sin – not this person's, nor the parents'. Rather, it was to let God's works shine forth in this person. We must do the deeds of the one who sent me while it is still day – for night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." With that, Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva, and smeared the blind one's eyes with the mud. Then Jesus said, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam" – Siloam means "sent." So the person went off to wash, and came back able to see.*

*Neighbors and those who had been accustomed to seeing the blind beggar began to ask, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said yes; others said no – the one who had been healed simply looked like the beggar. But the individual in question said, "No – it was me." The people then asked, "Then how were your eyes opened?" The answer came, "The one they call Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyes, and told me to go to Siloam and wash. When I went and washed, I was able to see." "Where is Jesus?" they asked. The person replied, "I have no idea."*

**Sermon: "Mud" – Rev. Erika Marksbury**

**Response Song: *I Saw the Light***

**– Nancy McCann, Corine Manroe, Susan Chambers,  
Judee Kunze, Bob McCann, Geoff Clayton**

*I wandered so aimless, my life was a mess.  
I couldn't see all the ways I am blessed.  
Then in the stillness and darkness of night,  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.*

*I saw the light, I saw the light,  
no more darkness, no more night.  
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight.  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.*

Just like a blind man, I wandered alone.  
Worries and fears I claimed for my own.  
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight,  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

I saw the light, I saw the light,  
no more darkness, no more night.  
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight.  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

Through trials and troubles, and hills I must climb.  
There is a promise I know is mine.  
Jesus is with me, I'll be alright.  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

I saw the light, I saw the light,  
no more darkness, no more night.  
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight.  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

**Pastoral Prayer – Rev. Erika Marksbury**

**Closing Words**

**Going Forth Song: *Song of Hope (Blue Book)***

**– Nancy McCann, Corine Manroe, Susan Chambers,  
Judee Kunze, Bob McCann, Geoff Clayton**

¡Dios de la es-pe-ran-za, dan-os go-zo y paz!  
Al mun-do en cri-sis, ha-bla tu ver-dad.  
Dios de la jus-ti-cia, mán-da-nos tu luz,  
Luz y es-pe-ran-za en la os-cu-ri-dad.

O-re-mos por la paz, can-te-mos de tu a-mor.  
Lu-che-mos por la paz, fi-e-les a ti, Señor.

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

### **Benediction – Rev. Erika Marksbury**

One: Friends, ... may the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

### **Postlude – Geoff Clayton**

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