

## Prayer of Confession

John 9-10:10

What keeps life from the fullest?  
Is it wealth, comfort, companionship,  
Is it debt, despair, and pain too much to bear?  
Is it endless exhaustion and social anxiety?  
A crippling economy or fist-formed ideology?

**Jesus says, "I am the gate...they will enter in and go out and find safe pasture."**

How do we keep Your sheep trapped,  
unable to go in and out to safe pasture?  
When have we acted as gatekeepers  
only to be humbled by our folly?

**Remove our blindness today.**

Like the Pharisees, we love to protect You.  
We boldly declare what You will and won't do.  
Yet, You act in surprising ways.  
You challenge our assumptions.

**You are the gate. We are not.**

**Surprise us with your restoring, resurrecting power.**

**Heal our blindness and lead us out to safe pasture.**

**Hymn** "Open Our Eyes" **2086**

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.  
*-Sing Twice-*

### \*Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear this Good News.  
While others do not see you for who you really are,  
Jesus' vision is clear. Jesus sees our routines of pain  
and brokenness. Stops. Kneels beside us. Demon-  
strates compassion. Touches our deepest wounds. Heals  
us. Forget how long you have suffered. God knows.

Jesus even brings you back into community where  
others kick you out.  
What a great God!  
Begin new life today!  
**By God's grace, we will! Amen!**

## Equipping

Prayer of Illumination

Growing Young Disciples

Anthem

Old Testament Readings Genesis 28:16-17

Deuteronomy 17:2-7

Gospel Reading John 10:1-10

Sermon



**Hymn** "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" **172**

## Celebrating the Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Hymn "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" **514**

The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.**

Words of Institution

**Celebrating the Sacrament of Communion**

We celebrate an open Communion Table. Share your financial, action, and prayer offerings on the worship cards. As you come forward, place them in the basket.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sending

\*Hymn "Live Into Hope" **332**

\*Blessing

\*Postlude "Resurrection" Hughes

\*Those who are able, please stand  
The congregation responds with the **bold** print

## John 11:1-45

Common English Bible

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's mighty works might be displayed in him. While it's daytime, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

After he said this, he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on the man's eyes. Jesus said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (this word means *sent*). So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see.

The man's neighbors and those who used to see him when he was a beggar said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," and others said, "No, it's someone who looks like him." But the man said, "Yes, it's me!" So they asked him, "How are you now able to see?" He answered, "The man they call Jesus made mud, smeared it on my eyes, and said, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and then I could see." They asked, "Where is this man?" He replied, "I don't know."

Then they led the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus made the mud and smeared it on the man's eyes on a Sabbath day. So Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. The man told them, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and now I see." Some Pharisees said, "This man isn't from God, because he breaks the Sabbath law." Others said, "How can a sinner do miraculous signs like these?" So they were divided. Some of the Pharisees questioned the man who had been born blind again: "What do you have to say about him, since he healed your eyes?" He replied, "He's a prophet." The Jewish leaders didn't believe the man had been blind and received his sight until they called for his parents. The Jewish leaders asked them, "Is this your son? Are you saying he was born blind? How can he now see?" His parents answered, "We know he is our son. We know he was born blind. But we don't know how he now sees, and we don't know who healed his eyes. Ask him. He's old enough to speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jewish authorities. This is because the Jewish authorities had already decided that whoever confessed Jesus to be the Christ would be expelled from the synagogue. That's why his parents said, "He's old enough. Ask him."

Therefore, they called a second time for the man who had been born blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know this man is a sinner." The man answered, "I don't know whether he's a sinner. Here's what I do know: I was blind and now I see." They questioned him: "What did he do to you? How did he heal your eyes?" He replied, "I already told you, and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" They insulted him: "You are his disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses, but we don't know where this man is from." The man answered, "This is incredible! You don't know where he is from, yet he healed my eyes! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners. God listens to anyone who is devout and does God's will. No one has ever heard of a healing of the eyes of someone born blind. If this man wasn't from God, he couldn't do this." They responded, "You were born completely in sin! How is it that you dare to teach us?" Then they expelled him.

Jesus heard they had expelled the man born blind. Finding him, Jesus said, "Do you believe in the Human One?" He answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him." Jesus said, "You have seen him. In fact, he is the one speaking with you." The man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Jesus. Jesus said, "I have come into the world to exercise judgment so that those who don't see can see and those who see will become blind. Some Pharisees who were with him heard what he said and asked, "Surely we aren't blind, are we?"

Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you wouldn't have any sin, but now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains. I assure you that whoever doesn't enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger but will run away because they don't know the stranger's voice."

Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn't understand what he was saying. So Jesus spoke again, "I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.

## Order of Worship

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

First Presbyterian Church

Kalispell, Montana

May 7, 2017 – 10:00 am



## Gathering

### Lighting the Christ Candle

Prelude

"Interlude"

Goodwin

Welcome

Prayer

Good Shepherd, teach us Your voice for You call us by name. Open the gate for us, that we may come and go finding safe pasture. By Your healing touch and embraced in community, may we experience life to the fullest. Amen.

\*Hymn

"Morning Has Broken"

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