Participants:

Message: Beth Fellinger

Prayer: Sandy

Song Leaders/Liturgists: Gera, Bernadette, Judi

Piano: Pearl

**WE BEGIN OUR WORSHIP**

**Welcome** (Gera)

**Song: Arise, Shine, for Your Light is Come, LU 103: 1**

Behold, darkness shall cover the earth,

and thick darkness the people,

but the LORD shall arise upon you

and his glory shall be seen upon you.

*Refrain*

Arise, shine, for your light is come,

and the glory of the LORD is risen.

O arise, shine, for your light is come,

and the glory of the LORD is upon you

**Call to Worship** (led by Bernadette)

**One:** When the world is dark and full of hate and fear,

when we cannot see God

**All: we will turn on the light.**

**One:** When we cannot find our way back to love and peace

**All: we will turn on the light.**

**One:**  When our vision dims due to the darkness within

**All: we will turn on the light.**

**One:** Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight**.**

**All: The light of the world is Jesus Christ.**

**One:** Come and worship the one

who brings sight to the blind.

**All: Hallelujah! Praise God, the light of the world!**

**Song: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty, LU 538: 1, 3**

Holy, holy, holy!

Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,

though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,

only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,

perfect in power, in love, and purity.

*Words: Reginald Heber, 1827, alt.,PD*

*Music (NICEA) PD*

**Opening Prayer** (Judi)

Gracious God, who created us in your own image,

Open our eyes to see your presence among us,

moving in powerful ways at all times

and in all places.

Open our ears to hear familiar words in new ways—

ways that will change us and challenge us

to become the people you created us to be.

Grant us the power and the courage

to come out of the darkness

and into the light of Jesus Christ,

that we may serve you by serving others.

Amen.

**Song: Arise, Shine, for Your Light Is Come, LU 103: 2.**

The nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your rising.

And they shall call you the city of the LORD,

O Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

*Refrain:*

Arise, shine, for your light is come,

and the glory of the LORD is risen.

O arise, shine, for your light is come,

and the glory of the LORD is upon you.

**WE CONFESS OUR SINS AND ARE FORGIVEN**

**Prayer of Confession**

(Gera)

Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain,

we would rather shut our eyes and be blind

than see things as they really are.

(Bernadette) Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world,

and give us the strength to bring your light

to those who walk in darkness.

(Gera) Help us to see others as you see them,

and forgive us when we do not trust you enough

to open our eyes to the possibilities before us.

(Judi) Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God,

and lead us in the footsteps

of the Light of the World,

who reveals your glory in his life,

his teachings, and his love.

In his holy name, we pray. Amen**.**

**Words of Assurance** (Gera) following words not on screen

Hear these words of assurance:

Even though you have lived in darkness, God’s light is being poured out for you. Accept the light and love that is freely offered, and be transformed by its healing mercies. AMEN

**Song: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, LU 730: 1**

**I want to walk as a child of the light**

**I want to follow Jesus**

**God set the stars to give light to the world**

**The star of my life is Jesus**

**Chorus**

**In Him there is no darkness at all**

**The night and the day are both alike**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God**

**Shine in my heart Lord Jesus**

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**Prayer:** (Sandy—please include a prayer of illumination)

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture: John 9:1-15**

**A Man Born Blind Receives Sight**

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 6 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, 7 saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 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 beg?” 9 Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” 10 But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” 11 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.” 12 They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

**The Pharisees Investigate the Healing**

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 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.”

**Message: Whose Fault is it Anyway?**

**Prayer**

**Song of Response: Christ, You Made the Blind Man See**

**Christ, you made the blind man see; with some mud you healed his eyes.**

**So you acted lovingly, bringing health and changing lives.**

**Yet it was a Sabbath Day; rules were all that some folks saw;**

**They were quick to scorn the way you put love before the Law.**

**Christ, you came to judge the earth, bringing truth and life and light,**

**Showing humble ones their worth, giving vision, bold and bright.**

**Those who proudly think they see are the ones who often find**

**Though they act quite boastfully, they, in fact, are really blind.**

**God, we pray that we will be people filled with light and grace.**

**Show us what we need to see in this culture, time and place:**

**We are called to be your light, telling how you've changed us here.**

**Love can make the darkness bright; faith in you makes all things clear.**

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*Tune: (ABERYSTWYTH) PD*

**OUR SERVICE IS ENDED**

**God’s Blessing**

**All: Alleluia! Amen**

**Song: Arise, Shine, for Your Light is Come, LU 103: 5**

The sun shall no more be your light by day,

nor moon your light by night,

for the LORD shall be your everlasting light,

and the days of your mourning shall be ended.

*Refrain:*

Arise, shine, for your light is come,

and the glory of the LORD is risen.

O arise, shine, for your light is come,

and the glory of the LORD is upon you.

*Type: Words and Music;*

*Contributors: Eric Glass*

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