Order of Worship
March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday in Lent
North Olmsted
United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Road,
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070
440-779-6634 + www.noumc.org
Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm, Pastor
Join us after worship for fellowship

Welcome and Passing of the Peace
Ministries and Missions Announcements
Prelude
Jesu, Word of God Incarnate
Mozart

Call to Worship (Ephesians 5, John 9)
When the world is dark and full of hate and fear,
when we cannot see God
we will turn on the light.
When we cannot find our way back to love and peace
we will turn on the light.
When our vision dims due to the darkness within
we will turn on the light.
Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight.
The light of the world is Jesus Christ.
Come and worship the one who brings sight to the blind.
Hallelujah! Praise God, the light of the world!

Opening Hymn
Open My Eyes, That I May See
UMH 454

Unison Prayer (Ephesians 5, John 9)
Gracious God, who created us in God’s own image, we are grateful
for all that you have done for us, for all that you are doing in us,
and for all that you will do through us. 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. We love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Amen.

**Gospel Reading**  
John 9:1-41

**Prayers of the People**

**Joys and Concerns** *(on last page of bulletin)*

**Pastoral Prayer** *(Psalm 23)*

God of light and love and peace, we praise your name for leading us in paths of righteousness, that we may come into your presence, forgiven and free. We give you thanks for guiding us to this place: where we may rest beside the still waters of your grace, where we are filled with the good gifts of your goodness and mercy. We worship you with all that we are, and we bless your name for all that we will be as we continue on our journey—a journey that leads us to your kingdom, where we will dwell with you forever. We offer ourselves, that you might bless us and send us out of the valley of the shadow of death, into every place in need of your light. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession** *(1 Samuel 16, Ephesians 5, John 9)*

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. 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. Help us 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. 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** *(Psalm 23)*

Christ came to lead us in paths of righteousness and to guide us through our lives. Christ is with us in times of danger and times of peace. The goodness and mercy of God are given to us each and every day of our lives. God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love, and leads us to the place that Christ has prepared for us. Believe in your heart that God loves you and forgives you. We believe! God help our unbelief!

**The Lord’s Prayer**  
UMH 895

**The Offering with Prayer**

*(Please continue to be faithful with your financial gifts by sending your stewardship contributions to the church office to the attention of the Financial Secretary, Ed Brewster.)*

**Old Testament Reading**  
Psalm 23

**Hymn**  
*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*  
UMH 381

**Sermon**  
“The One Who Leads Us”  
Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm

**Closing Hymn**  
*He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought*  
UMH 128

**Benediction** *(Psalm 23, Ephesians 5)*

Go into the world, carrying the light of Christ into the darkness! **We go, with hearts full and eyes open!** Receive God’s love and care, and share that love and care with others! **We go, with eyes reflecting God’s light and hands open to share it!** May you walk in the light of Christ all the days of your life! **We will follow Christ wherever he leads us! Amen!**

**Postlude**  
*Behold the Great Redeemer*  
A. Schriener