



# Burlington

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## Baptist Church

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*Lent IV*

Sunday, March 19, 2023

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**Welcome** to Burlington Baptist Church today!

\* You are invited to stand.

## WE APPROACH GOD

O God,  
journey with us as we remember  
why Jesus turned his back on Galilee  
and strode toward Jerusalem.  
Journey with us, and open our eyes  
to see his mind, his heart, his dedication,  
his love, his single-mindedness, his sacrifice.  
Come, meet us in our worship,  
and lead us in his way.  
Amen.

Prelude "Menuet" (C.W. von Gluck) Bev

Welcome and Announcements Dave

Prayer and Preparation

Lighting of the Christ Candle "Song of St. Patrick" (Marty Haugen)

*May the spirit of Christ be our hope through the day;  
be our guard through the night; our companion on the way.*

## WE PRAISE GOD

Invitation to Worship

\* Hymn of Praise "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters" 490 - GG

- 1. Wash, O God, your sons and daughters,  
newborn creatures of your womb.  
Number them among your people,  
raised like Christ from death and tomb.  
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;  
compass them with love and light.  
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,  
holy dove and heart's delight.*

2. *Every day we need your nurture;  
by your milk may we be fed.  
Let us join your feast, partaking  
cup of blessing, living bread.  
God, renew us; guide our footsteps,  
free from sin and all its snares,  
one with Christ in living, dying,  
by your Spirit, children, heirs.*
3. *O how deep your holy wisdom!  
Unimagined, all your ways!  
To your name be glory, honor!  
With our lives we worship, praise!  
We your people stand before you,  
water-washed and Spirit-born.  
By your grace, our lives we offer.  
Recreate us; God, transform!*

\* Prayer of Approach and Confession (In Unison)

**O God of forgiveness,  
we pray for new life as we confess our old ways.  
We are a rich people, yet grumbling  
comes easier to our lips than thanksgiving.  
We are a loved people, yet we respond to each other  
in fear and with distrust rather than in love.  
We are a people set free as followers of Jesus,  
and yet we live as slaves to comfort  
and the expectations of others.  
We are a people called to live in the light,  
yet we prefer to stay in the shadows.  
Gracious God, open our blind eyes,  
that we might see the grace that is ours,  
and open our fearful hearts,  
that we might welcome you in,  
and truly be forgiven. Amen.**

Responsive Reading Isaiah 42: 10 - 20

LEADER: Sing YAHWEH a new song,  
sing God's praise to the ends of the earth!  
Let the sea and all that fills it sing God's praise,  
the islands and all who inhabit them!

PEOPLE: **Let the desert and its settlements rejoice...  
Let the people sing for joy,  
let them shout from the mountain tops!  
Let them give glory to YAHWEH,  
and declare God's praise in the coastlands!**

LEADER: For YAHWEH will go forth as a hero,  
with a fury like that of a warrior -  
with a shout, YAHWEH raises this battle cry,  
and leads the charge against the foe:

PEOPLE: **"For a long time I held my peace,  
restrained myself and held myself in check.  
But now I groan as if giving birth,  
gasping and panting!**

LEADER: I will lay waste the mountains and hills,  
and dry up all their greenery.  
I will turn the rivers into wildernesses, drying every pool.

PEOPLE: **Those who are blind,  
I will lead by a route they don't know,  
and guide them by unfamiliar paths.  
I will turn the darkness before them into light  
and straighten out their twisting roads.**

LEADER: These things I will do, and I will not abandon them.  
But the rest - those who put their trust in carved idols,  
who say to caste images, 'You are our gods,'  
they will be routed and completely put to shame!

**ALL: Listen closely, you who are deaf,  
look and see, you who are blind:  
You saw many things, but did not observe them;  
your ears were open, but you paid no attention.  
Amen.**

WE GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD

Prayers of the People of God

Offering Invitation

\* Offering Hymn      "Open My Eyes, That I May See"      451 - GG

1. *Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes; illumine me,  
Spirit divine!*
  
2. *Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear.  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears; illumine me,  
Spirit divine!*
  
3. *Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere.  
Open my heart, and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart; illumine me,  
Spirit divine!*

## GOD SPEAKS TO US

### The Scriptures

Marlene

Epistle Lesson: 2 Peter 1: 5 - 9

Gospel Lesson: John 9: 1 - 41

Sermon: "Blind Spots"

## GOD SENDS US FORTH

\* Hymn of Response "He Healed the Darkness of My Mind"  
(Words by Fred Pratt Green - Tune @ #223)

1. *He healed the darkness of my mind  
the day he gave my sight to me:  
it was not sin that made me blind;  
it was no sinner made me see.*
2. *Let others call my faith a lie  
or try to stir up doubt in me:  
look at me now! None can deny  
I once was blind, and now I see.*
3. *Ask me not how! But I know who  
has opened up new worlds to me:  
this Jesus does what none can do  
I once was blind, and now I see!*

\* Benediction

Postlude "Seek Ye First" (Karen Lafferty) with "To a Wild Rose"  
(Edward MacDowell; setting Joel Raney)

Bev