

Order of Worship
July 30th 2023 ~ 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements, and Peace

Call to Worship

Gracious God, call to us today

Call us into Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

God of the poets, remind us again how much You love us

Sing to us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

God of the disciples, teach us how to follow You

Teach us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

God of all creation, help us to know Your ways

All:

***We gather to hear Your call,
to sing Your praise,
to teach each other,
to pray and worship as the Body of Christ. Amen.***

~ written by Rev. Mindi

Hymn of Praise

Our God
WS #190

Verse 1

Water You turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You
None like You

Verse 2

Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You
None like You

Chorus

Our God is greater
Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any
other
Our God is healer
Awesome in power our God our
God

Verse 2

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There's no one like You
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Bridge

And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
(Then) what could stand against

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Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman
CCLI Song #5677416

Opening Prayer

O Beloved One,
All the ends of the earth marvel
at your deeds of power; we feel your presence
as growth returning to the countryside;
we rejoice as we remember your faithfulness and steadfast love
revealed in the risen Christ.
Surround us with that faithfulness and steadfast love
Fill us with generosity and courage
so that we may be called your friends
and go forth to befriend your world. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

~ from Friends of God

Special Music

Poems, Prayers and Promises
John Denver

Scripture Reading

John 9:1-39 **Message**

Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?"

Jesus said, "You're asking the wrong question. You're looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world's Light."

He said this and then spit in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man's eyes, and said, "Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam" (Siloam means "Sent"). The man went and washed—and saw.

Soon the town was buzzing. His relatives and those who year after year had seen him as a blind man begging were saying, "Why, isn't this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?"

Others said, "It's him all right!"

But others objected, "It's not the same man at all. It just looks like him." He said, "It's me, the very one."

They said, "How did your eyes get opened?"

"A man named Jesus made a paste and rubbed it on my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' I did what he said. When I washed, I saw."

"So where is he?"

"I don't know."

They marched the man to the Pharisees. This day when Jesus made the paste and healed his blindness was the Sabbath. The Pharisees grilled him again on how he had come to see. He said, "He put a clay paste on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "Obviously, this man can't be from God. He doesn't keep the Sabbath."

Others countered, "How can a bad man do miraculous, God-revealing things like this?" There was a split in their ranks.

They came back at the blind man, "You're the expert. He opened *your* eyes. What do you say about him?"

He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews didn't believe it, didn't believe the man was blind to begin with. So they called the parents of the man now bright-eyed with sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? So how is it that he now sees?"

His parents said, "We know he is our son, and we know he was born blind. But we don't know how he came to see—haven't a clue about who opened his eyes. Why don't you ask him? He's a grown man and can speak for himself." (His parents were talking like this because they were intimidated by the Jewish leaders, who had already decided that anyone who took a stand that this was the Messiah would be kicked out of the meeting place. That's why his parents said, "Ask him. He's a grown man.")

They called the man back a second time—the man who had been blind—and told him, "Give credit to God. We know this man is an impostor."

He replied, "I know nothing about that one way or the other. But I know one thing for sure: I was blind . . . I now see."

They said, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

"I've told you over and over and you haven't listened. Why do you want to hear it again? Are you so eager to become his disciples?"

With that they jumped all over him. "You might be a disciple of that man, but we're disciples of Moses. We know for sure that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this man even comes from."

The man replied, "This is amazing! You claim to know nothing about him, but the fact is, he opened my eyes! It's well known that God isn't at the beck and call of sinners, but listens carefully to anyone who lives in reverence and does his will. That someone opened the eyes of a man born blind has never been heard of—ever. If this man didn't come from God, he wouldn't be able to do anything."

They said, "You're nothing but dirt! How dare you take that tone with us!" Then they threw him out in the street.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and went and found him. He asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

The man said, "Point him out to me, sir, so that I can believe in him." Jesus said, "You're looking right at him. Don't you recognize my voice?" "Master, I believe," the man said, and worshiped him.

Jesus then said, "I came into the world to bring everything into the clear light of day, making all the distinctions clear, so that those who have never seen will see, and those who have made a great pretense of seeing will be exposed as blind."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Poems, Prayers, and Promises: A Look at Miracles in the 21st Century

Rev. Dr. Mike Attas

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of the People

Offertory

Ordinary Miracle

Glen Ballard and David Stewart

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heav'nly host

Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

Amen

CCLI Song # 6115489

Thomas Ken

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Communion

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn

I Sing The Mighty Power Of God

RH #128

Verse 1

I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise
That spread the flowing seas
abroad
And built the lofty skies
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day
The moon shines full at His
command
And all the stars obey

Verse 2

I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food
He formed the creatures with
His word
And then pronounced them
good
Lord how Thy wonders are
displayed
Where'er I turn my eye
If I survey the ground I tread
Or gaze upon the sky

Verse 3

There's not a plant or flower
below
But makes Thy glories known
And clouds arise and tempests
blow
By order from Thy throne
While all that borrows life from
Thee
Is ever in Thy care
And everywhere that we can be
Thou God art present there

Isaac Watts, Xavier Ludwig Hartig
CCLI Song #29097

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Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our
being: We humbly pray that you will guide us by
your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our
life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are
ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

Postlude

Our love in action now begins

This Sunday's Special Music is brought to you by
Micha Schoepe & Paul Dankers.

Thank you to all of this Sunday's volunteers!

Altar – Judi Loubier
Greeters – Lelia and Esteban Ferrer
Scripture Reader – Esteban Ferrer (9:00), Kim
Rogers (10:30)

For current events, visit the "current events" drop down via the CALENDAR tab on our website, or sign up to receive our weekly newsletter email via the "newsletter sign-up" dropdown under the CONTACT tab at www.snowmasschapel.org.