

Winnetka Congregational Church

Worship
March 22, 2020

Welcome to worship!

This worship service was made
in careful observation of all CDC COVID-19 guidelines and protocols,
So as to protect both staff and others whom our actions may affect.

Our Music Director, Matthew Hunter, was unable
To join us for filming, due to a cold,
But was actively involved off-camera.

Our flowers are given today by
Carla and Mark Vorhees and their children, Stephanie and Lindsey,
In loving memory of Carla's brother, George Straeten,
And Carla's parents, Charles and Marilyn Straeten,
And in loving memory of
Mark's parents, Robert and Jean Vorhees.

GOD GATHERS US TO PRAISE

Prelude	Jill Hunt, <i>organ</i>
Words of Welcome	The Rev. Jeffrey D. Braun
Silence	
Introit:	<i>Lead Me, Lord</i> Kandise Le Blanc, <i>soloist</i> ; Jill Hunt, <i>organist</i>
	S. Wesley, <i>composer</i>

Leader: There are times when we cannot see clearly
Or, even, at all.

**All: Times when circumstance or perspective,
Or a combination of the two, can impinge our sight,
And dim our faith.**

Leader: Times when worry or the desire for certainty
Strain our ability to function and adapt.

All: Times when it's hard to trust, hard to believe.

Leader: In such a time as this, O God,
Let us look to Jesus.

**All: Let us look to the One—both human and Divine—
who knows our trials, hears our prayers,
And brings light in our darkness.**

Hymn:

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Christopher Martin, *cantor*

VERSE 1:

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth you have for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unlock and set me free.

Silently now, on bended knee,
ready I wait your will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

VERSE 2:

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth you send so clear;
and while the message sounds in my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now, on bended knee,
ready I wait your will to see;
open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

VERSE 3:

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart, and let me prepare
love with your children thus to share.
Silently now, on bended knee,
ready I wait your will to see;
open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Invocation, Confession, and Words of Assurance

The Lord's Prayer (*everyone prays*)

**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;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

GOD SPEAKS

Children's Message

A Stone Sat Still by Brendan Wenzel

The Rev. Sarah A. Lohrbach

Congregational Song (*everyone sings three times*)



Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Reading:

John 9:1-12 (Common English Bible)

Leader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon:

New Sight

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Braun

GOD LISTENS

Anthem:

Open My Eyes

Marty Haugen, composer

Kandise Le Blanc, *soloist*; Jill Hunt, *piano*; Jason Hunt, *guitar*

Pastoral Prayer

GOD SENDS US

Hymn:

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

VERSE 1:

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose Word cannot be broken
formed you for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake your sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
you may smile at all thy foes.

VERSE 2:

See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply your sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.

Who can faint while such a river
ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

VERSE 3:

Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near!
Thus deriving from their banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna
which God gives them on their way.

Benediction

Postlude

Connecting in Christ

Please pray for one another and our world, especially for the ill and for those fighting this illness. Reach out to one another. Call someone. Text someone. Mail a handwritten note. Search for--and channel--Christ's light.

And let us remember:

**Church is *WHOSE* we are (both God's and each other's),
Not where we are!**