

We remember in our prayers: Sheila, Pam Soule's best friend, having surgery on March 20, Ruthie Stone's friend Don Gage who lost his best friend in a vehicle accident, Gail Boudin, Virginia Chubbuck, Amy Poole, Joe Dee, Kathleen Grigg, George & Pat Greene, Jeff & Jeanne Sewall, Dottie, a family member of the Boudin family and friend, Suzanne, Greg Foster, Ginny Kroitzch, The family of Joe Evans, Carol & Eric Johnsen, the Betancourt family, and our neighbors at the Edgcomb Green.

Acknowledgements: Liturgy written by Sharon McCart
www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4792/worship-elements-march-19-2023
Hymns played by Pianists Terry Heller, Elaine Johnson, Hymnserv.com and Pianist Richard Irwin Music from his website:
play.hymnswithoutwords.com/. Except where otherwise noted, music in today's bulletin that is not in the public domain is Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-739201. All rights reserved.

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Edgcomb Community Church, UCC

"God is still speaking"

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Edgcomb Community Church, UCC

"To bring together our communities in spirituality and loving service to humankind."

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 19, 2023

WELCOME

Rev. Kate Pinkham

SOUNDING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE *Peaceful Garden*

*LIGHTING THE CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*) Sharon McCart

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!

*HYMN *All Creatures of Our God and King* vs. 1-3

*OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

**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.**

*Prayer response – Gloria Patri
*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)
**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

SCRIPTURE READING John 9:1-41

SERMON The Man Who Now Sees

HYMN *Fairest Lord Jesus* vs. 1-4

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH & The Lord's Prayer

THE MORNING OFFERING

*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ and Spirit one.*

*The Prayer of Dedication (*in unison*)

**Accept the gifts of our hands and the thankfulness of our
hearts and hands and voices, all lifted in praise to you,
God of our life! Amen.**

*HYMN *God is Love Let Heaven Adore Him* vs. 1-3

BENEDICTION (*responsive*)

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!