

# Sunday Worship

March 22, 2020

Cheltenham UMC



Christ Healing the Blind, By El Greco c. 1567



## +GREETING

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God,  
**let us hold fast to our confession.**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

**but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.**

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,

**so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**



+HYMN “God of Love and God of Power” UMH 578

God of love and God of power,  
grant us in this burning hour  
grace to ask these gifts of thee,  
daring hearts and spirits free.

Refrain:

*God of love and God of power,  
thou hast called us for this hour.*



+HYMN “God of Love and God of Power”

We are not the first to be  
banished by our fears from thee;  
give us courage, let us hear  
heaven’s trumpets ringing clear.

Refrain:

*God of love and God of power,  
thou hast called us for this hour.*



+HYMN “God of Love and God of Power”

All our lives belong to thee,  
thou our final loyalty;  
slaves are we whene'er we share  
that devotion anywhere.

Refrain:

*God of love and God of power,  
thou hast called us for this hour.*



+HYMN “God of Love and God of Power”

God of love and God of power,  
make us worthy of this hour;  
offering lives if it's thy will,  
keeping free our spirits still.

Refrain:

*God of love and God of power,  
thou hast called us for this hour.*



## OPENING PRAYER

**Everlasting God, because of your tender mercy toward all people, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon himself our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all should follow the example of his great humility. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his patience and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and glory, we thank you that you judge us not by the perfection of our actions, but by our readiness to live boldly by faith. Help us, as individuals and as a congregation, to trust you and follow where you lead, that in Christ your name may be glorified in all the earth. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE







+HYMN “Heal Us, Emmanuel, Hear Our Prayer” UMH  
266

Heal us, Emmanuel, hear our prayer;  
we wait to feel thy touch;  
deep-wounded souls to thee repair,  
and Savior, we are such.

Our faith is feeble, we confess  
we faintly trust thy word;  
but wilt thou pity us the less?  
Be that far from thee, Lord!



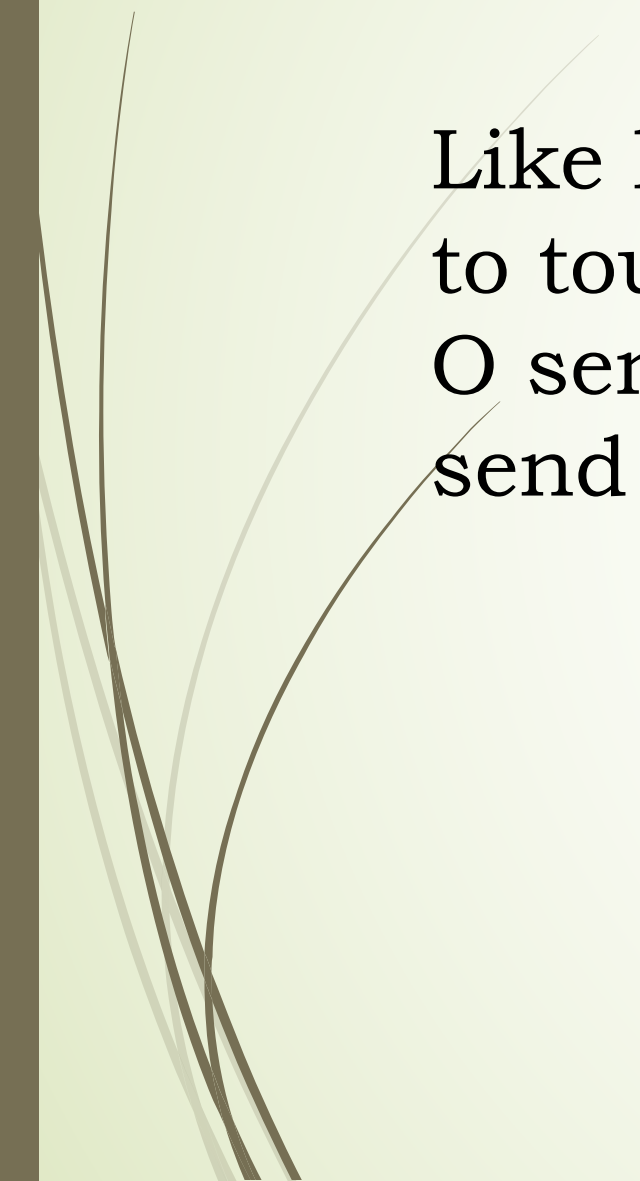
+HYMN “Heal Us, Emmanuel, Hear Our Prayer”

Remember him who once applied  
with trembling for relief;  
“Lord, I believe,” with tears he cried;  
“O help my unbelief!”

She, too, who touched thee in the press  
and healing virtue stole,  
was answered, “Daughter, go in peace:  
thy faith hath made thee whole.”



+HYMN “Heal Us, Emmanuel, Hear Our Prayer”



Like her, with hopes and fears we come  
to touch thee if we may;  
O send us not despairing home;  
send none unhealed away.

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

**1 Samuel 16:1–13** • The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?”

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 9:1–41 • As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.”

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”



## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”


So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."



+HYMN “Open My Eyes, That I May See” UMH 454

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!



+HYMN “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes 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!



+HYMN “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

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!