

Worship to be recorded March 22, 2020

Title: Show us, Jesus, how you define blindness

Focus statement

Jesus looks at inner attitudes, not external appearance. The church leaders are blind to their sins and so easily pass judgment on others. All of their empty words could not save them. The blind man only had to say, "I believe." Those options are given to us today also. We have to say, "I believe," so Jesus can show us where we are blind.

Call to Worship: (from Psalm 23)

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd!

People: We have everything we need.

Leader: The Lord leads us beside peaceful waters and right paths, comforting us through the valleys of despair, and preparing for us a rich feast.

People: We have more than we need.

Leader: The Lord anoints us for healing, strengthening, gifting, and blessing.

People: Our cups overflow with goodness and mercy.

All: We will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Confession

God, we confess that we are quick to judge others and not acknowledge our own sins and weaknesses. *(Pause for silence.)*

We confess that we do not always follow your example because immorality, impurity, and greed are part of our lives, and obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes come from our lips. God, we need your light to shine on us to expose the things we say and do that are not pleasing to you.

(Pause.)

Forgive us our sins.

Assurance of pardon

Though your hearts were once filled with darkness, now you are full of the light of the Lord. This light within you produces only what is good and right and true. Let the Holy Spirit fill and control you. Walk in the light for you are no longer blind.

Singing

Children's time

Imagine two gifts—one beautifully done and one not so attractive.

You open the unattractive box and find a nice gift.

You open the beautifully wrapped box and find a "not-so-nice" item.

In 1 Samuel 16, God pays attention to the inside. We often think something is good because of its outward appearance.

Prayer: God, you see everything. We don't. Help us to listen to you, just like the blind man did. Help us to believe in you and to tell others, too. Amen. A . . . men (hand clap).

Scripture: John 9:1-5, 39-41; Ephesians 5:8-14

Sermon: From our blindness, we move into new sight!

Ritual of response

Invite the congregation to each make a gratitude list of the gifts God has given to them.

Song STJ 67 Let There Be Light, Lord God

Sharing

Pastoral prayer/offering prayer

Prayer for many impacted by the coronavirus:

- +Heath care workers, for Phil and Pam, and other leaders in care centers.
- +Neighbors near and far.
- +The unemployed.
- +Small business owners.
- +Those with the virus.
- +Those with other illnesses.
- +People around the world grieving the loss of a loved one.
- +The poor.
- +Societal and cultural institutions.
- +National leaders all over the world.

Announcements

Extinguishing the light

Benediction

Leave from here knowing that you are a forgiven sinner with the light and power of God living in and through you so that those who are spiritually blind can say, "I believe!"