

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

God of light and love and peace, we praise your name for leading us in paths of righteousness, that we may come into your presence, forgiven and free. We give you thanks for guiding us to this place: where we may rest beside the still waters of your grace, where we are filled with the good gifts of your goodness and mercy. We worship you with all that we are, and we bless your name for all that we will be as we continue on our journey—a journey that leads us to your kingdom, where we will dwell with you forever. We offer you these gifts, that you might bless them and send them out into the valley of the shadow of death, and everywhere in need of your light. Amen. all your people encounter fullness of life through the love of Christ, which lives within us. Amen.

GRATITUDES, PRAYER REQUESTS, LIGHT OF GOD MOMENTS

Lord's Prayer - Our Father, which 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 them that trespass against us. And 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: You Shall Go Out With Joy #663

BENEDICTION

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! - Amen 🎵

Bulletin Sources:

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**If you are visiting for the first time today, know that we are happy and blessed to have you with us.*

I once was blind



but now I see



Mont Vernon Congregational Church

UCC - United Church of Christ

March 19, 2023 - Abbie Velez

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Calling in the Light

Amazing Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP

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!

Opening Hymn:

I Want to Walk as a Child of Light

#367

OPENING PRAYER

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.

Psalm 23

#791

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.

*Moment of Silent Prayer

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ came to lead us in paths of righteousness and to guide us through our lives. Christ is with us in times of danger and times of peace. The goodness and mercy of God are given to us each and every day of our lives. God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love, and leads us to the place that Christ has prepared for us. Believe in your heart that God loves you and forgives you. We believe! God help our unbelief!

STORY FOR ALL AGES

God Sees the Heart!

SCRIPTURE: John 9:1-41

Gloria Patri - Glory be to the Father

THE MESSAGE -

But Now I See

Hymn of Response:

Amazing Grace

#341

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING

Doxology - Praise God from whom all blessings flow