

**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**Boonsboro, Maryland**  
**301-432-2278**  
**Rev. Ciara Simonson**  
**Sunday, March 14, 2021 – Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Worship Service 10:00 am**

**Organist – Greg Martin**  
**Elders – Conda Slick and Steve Brooks**  
**Lay Leader – Dan Brooks**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3331109127?pwd=VWVoOFITSGdXTm9pV2pMdE1DUnZ5UT09>

**Phone number: (301) 715 8592**  
**Meeting ID: 333 110 9127**  
**Passcode: 21713**

Greeting and Welcome- Richard Riddle

Announcements – Richard Riddle

Prayer of Invocation – Dan Brooks

**Opening Hymn - #503 – Since Jesus Came into My Heart**

**V1** – What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought  
Since Jesus came into my heart  
I have light in my soul for which long I had sought,  
Since Jesus came into my heart

Refrain

Since Jesus came into my heart  
Since Jesus came into my heart  
Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows rolls  
Since Jesus came into my heart

**V2** – I have ceased from my wand'ring and going astray  
Since Jesus came into my heart  
Any my sins which were many are all washed away  
Since Jesus came into my heart [Refrain]

**V3** – I shall go there to dwell in that city I know  
Since Jesus came into my heart

And I'm happy, so happy, as onward I go  
Since Jesus came into my heart [Refrain]

### **Responsive Reading - Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

L – Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever

**A – That's what those who are redeemed by the Lord say, the ones God redeemed from the power of their enemies, the ones God gathered from various countries, from east and west, north and south**

L – Some of the redeemed were fools because of their sinful ways. They suffered because of their wickedness

**A – They had absolutely no appetite for food, they are arrived at death's gates.**

L – So they cried out to the Lord in their distress and God saved them from their desperate circumstances.

**A - God gave the order and healed them, he rescued them from their pit.**

L – Let them thank the Lord for his faithful love and his wondrous works for all people.

**A – Let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and declare what God has done in songs of joy.**

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.**

Joys and Concerns

Interlude for Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Threefold Amen

Children's Sermon – Fran Cockerham

Special Music

Scripture Reading

*The Lesson:* **Numbers 21:4-9**

They marched from Mount Hor on the Reed Sea road around the land of Edom. The people became impatient on the road. The people spoke against God and Moses: "Why did you bring us up from Egypt to kill us in the desert, where there is no food or water. And we detest this miserable bread!" So the Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people and they bit the people. Many of the Israelites died.

The people went to Moses and said, "We've sinned, for we spoke against the Lord and you. Pray to the Lord so that he will send the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

The Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous snake and place it on a pole. Whoever is bitten can look at it and live." Moses made a bronze snake and placed it on a pole. If a snake bit someone, that person could look at the bronze snake and live.

*The Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10*

At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. You used to live like people of this world. You followed the rule of a destructive spiritual power. This is the spirit of disobedience to God's will that is now at work in persons whose lives are characterized by disobedience. At one time you were like those persons. All of you used to do whatever felt good and whatever you thought you wanted so that you were children headed for punishment just like everyone else.

However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that he has for us. You are saved by God's grace. And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus. God did this to show future generations the greatness of his grace by the goodness that God has shown us in Christ Jesus.

You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed. It's not something you did that you can be proud of. Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.

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*The Gospel: John 9:1-41 KJV (Rev. Ciara)*

**9** **1** And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. **2** And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? **3** Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. **4** I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. **5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. **6** When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed **[1]** the eyes of the blind man with the clay, **7** And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

**8** The neighbors therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? **9** Some said, This is he: others

said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. [10](#) Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? [11](#) He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. [12](#) Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.

### **The Pharisees Investigate the Healing**

[13](#) They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. [14](#) And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. [15](#) Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. [16](#) Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. [17](#) They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. [18](#) But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. [19](#) And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? [20](#) His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: [21](#) But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. [22](#) These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. [23](#) Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him. [24](#) Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. [25](#) He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. [26](#) Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes? [27](#) He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples? [28](#) Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. [29](#) We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is. [30](#) The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. [31](#) Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. [32](#) Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. [33](#) If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. [34](#) They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast [\[2\]](#) him out.

## Spiritual Blindness

[35](#) Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? [36](#) He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? [37](#) And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. [38](#) And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

[39](#) And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. [40](#) And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? [41](#) Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

Sermon

Offering

The Doxology: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

Invitation to Communion

### Communion Hymn – #513 Thank you Lord

Thank you, Lord for saving my soul. Thank you, Lord for making me whole  
Thank you, Lord for giving to me Thy great salvation so rich and free.

Prayers of the Elders – **Conda Slick**  
Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Lord's Prayer

### Closing Hymn - #581 'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus

**V1** – 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His Word  
Just to rest upon His promise, Just to know: "Thus saith the Lord,"

Refrain

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him. How I've proved Him o'er and o'er  
Jesus, Jesus precious Jesus. O for grace to trust Him more

**V2** – O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust His cleansing blood

Just in simple faith to plunge me “neath the healing, cleansing flood [Refrain]

**V3** – Yes ‘tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease  
Just from Jesus simply taking Life and rest and joy and peace [Refrain]

**V4** – I’m so glad I learned to trust Thee, precious Jesus, Savior friend  
And I know that Thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end [Refrain]

Benediction

Postlude