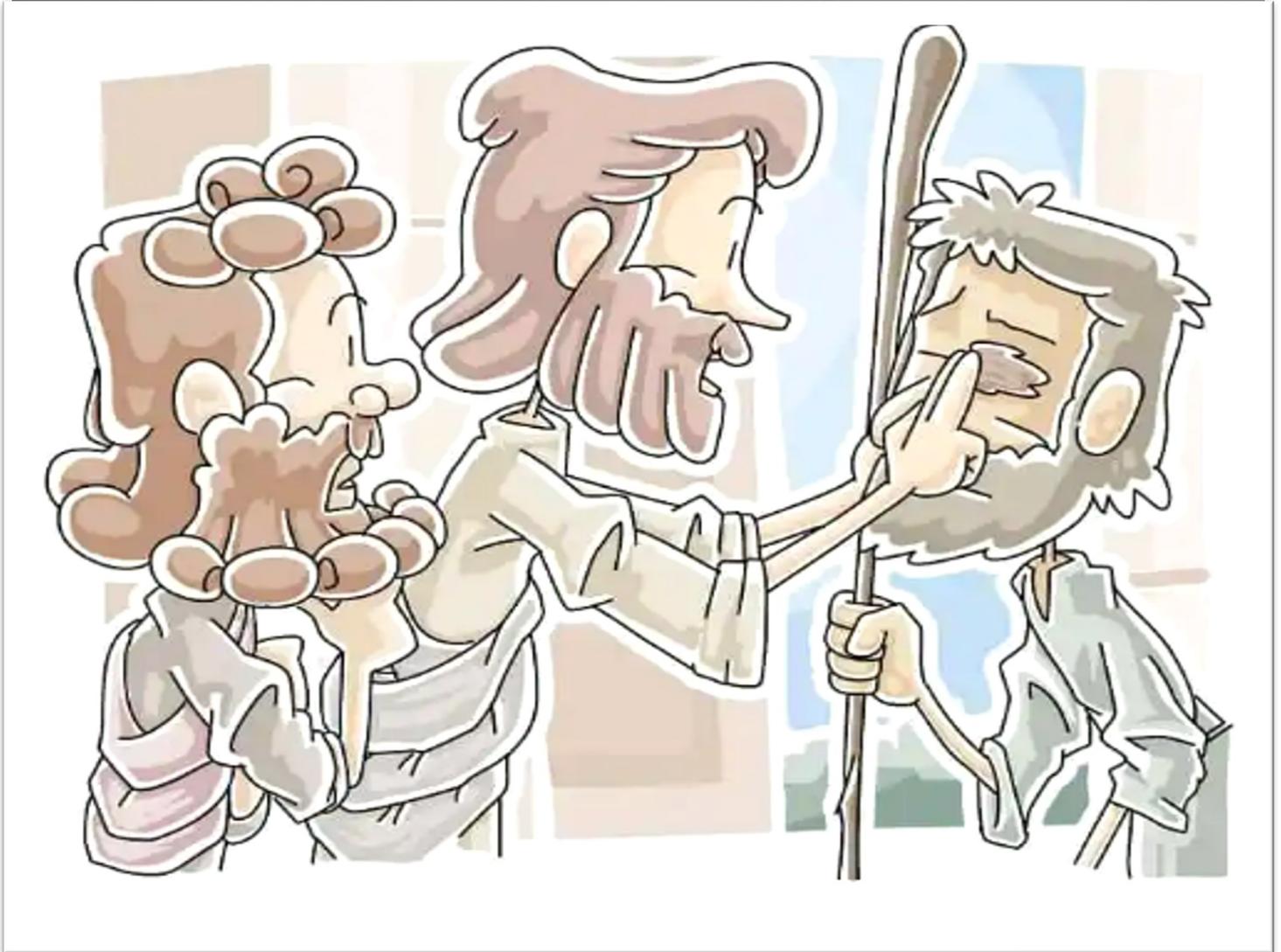




Laguna Country
United Methodist Church



**Reaching Up, Reaching Out
Welcoming Everyone,
Serving in God's Love**

March 19, 2023
9:30 AM

Order of Worship

March 19, 2023

Dear God, bless us to grow in faith and love as we worship you as one family. Amen.

Boldface type: The congregation speaks in unison

WELCOME

PRELUDE

I Need Thee Every Hour
David Atkins, Pianist

(Labenske)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God of darkness and light

Open our eyes to your justice.

God of goodness and glory

Open our minds to your wisdom.

God of mercy and kindness

Open our hearts to your love.

HYMN

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

#152 vs.1-3

1. I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.
2. I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food, who formed the creatures thru the Word, and then pronounced them good. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye, if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.
3. There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known, and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne; while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care; and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world, light of our lives, come to us in the darkness of our souls and heal us. Come as you will, not as we want or expect; come in the power of your Spirit that brings us to our spiritual knees in thanksgiving for grace and opens our spiritual eyes to behold your glory. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Day by Day
Sherry and David Atkins

(Schwartz)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-17

Pendra, LaFee

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

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.' 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.'

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

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.'

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.</p> | <p>2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.</p> |
|--|---|

SECOND SCRIPTURE

John 9:18-41

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.' 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.

Spiritual Blindness

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 worshipped 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.

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 worshipped 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, from the reading of the Scriptures, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

SERMON

Rev. Doug Williams

RESPONSE**Sweet Hour of Prayer**

#496 vs.1

PASTORAL PRAYER**LORDS PRAYER****PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS****OFFERTORY PRAYER**

We can never give more to you, O God, than what you have first given to us. Bless these gifts and those who give. Strengthen your church to serve you in the world. Amen.

Worship Leaders for Today

Worship Leader/Liturgist-

Glenn Miller

Cantor-

Sharon Holmes, Scott Bonhard,
Liz Heacock, David Atkins, Sherry
Atkins, & Laura Dailak

Pianist-

David Atkins

A/V Tech-

Scott Andrews

Laguna Country Staff



Rev. Doug Williams

Lead Pastor

revdoug.lcumc@gmail.com

Ashleigh Kelly

Office Manager

office.lcumc@gmail.com

Richard Warne

Music Director

richard.lcumc@gmail.com



24442 Moulton Pkwy
Laguna Woods, CA

Phone 949.837.3414

Email office.lcumc@gmail.com

Website lagunacountryumc.org

Dial-a-Devotion 949.837.5433

Follow Us:



facebook



Instagram