

# -STHIE-

## [AT HOME]

SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2020

### HYMN

[Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words.]

Amazing grace – how sweet the sound –  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

God's grace has taught my heart to fear,  
his grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

And, when this heart and flesh shall fail  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil  
a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we first begun.

*John Newton (1725-1807)*

### PRAYER

Lord, I worship you today. Help me to see your calling in my life. Open my eyes to what is possible when I see things through the eyes of your Son. Forgive what is passed, protect me from all that is to come.

### READING: JOHN 9:1-41

### REFLECTION

Jesus mixed his saliva with some dirt to make mud. Does this remind you of the creation story? God took dirt and breathed life into it. Maybe Jesus was showing that the divine work of creation and re-creation is ongoing. May we have eyes to see it today.

### PRAYER

All seeing, all knowing God I call on you today. May your Spirit give your world a sense of calm and peace in these difficult times.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.

For those people who are worried about leaving their home and those who cannot.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other.

We pray for carers, doctors and nurses.

We continue to pray for those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend and act of worship today.

I especially want to pray for .....

Holy God, present with us now, guide me in all I do and say – that it might reflect your love for the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer.

### HYMN

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Come unto me and rest;  
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
Thy head upon my breast.”  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
So weary, worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting place,  
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Behold, I freely give  
The living water; thirsty one,  
Stoop down, and drink, and live.”  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
Of that lifegiving stream;  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“I am this dark world's light;  
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
And all thy day be bright.”  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
In him my star, my sun;  
And in that light of life I'll walk  
Till traveling days are done.

### BLESSING

Kindle about us, O Lord, the glory of heaven.  
May the love of your Son protect us.  
May the fire of your love burn brightly within us.  
May our hearts be without malice and without fear.  
Kindle within us the bright flame of love to neighbour, love to friend, and love to all, for your holy name's sake. (Celtic Prayer)

And may the blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be upon us, our loved ones,  
our homes and communities,  
this day and for ever more. Amen.



## JOHN 9.1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.<sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him."<sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.<sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."<sup>6</sup> 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,<sup>7</sup> saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"<sup>9</sup> Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man."<sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"<sup>11</sup> 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."<sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.<sup>14</sup> Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.<sup>15</sup> 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."<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> 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."<sup>18</sup> 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<sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"<sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;<sup>21</sup> 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."<sup>22</sup> 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.<sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."<sup>24</sup> 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."<sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."<sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"<sup>27</sup> 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?"<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.<sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken

to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."<sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."<sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"<sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."<sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

<sup>39</sup>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."<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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