

## Greeting & Announcements

-In an effort to connect in Christian unity even when we are forced to be separate due to our circumstances, our church bell, along with several others around Tipton, will ring daily at 11am. When you hear the bell ring, you're invited to pause. Pray the Lord's Prayer, knowing that others around Tipton are also praying.

-Dolores Kunde's family requests that anyone who's able send her a birthday card in celebration of her 92nd birthday this Friday, since she can't have a party. Please let Pastor know if you need her address.

-The church building closure will last as long as the schools remain closed; as of today, that means we'll be closed through April 13. We are thinking about what it will mean for us to be dispersed over Holy Week and Easter. Please let Pastor know what you most want to see in the virtual worship options, and we'll do our best.

## **GATHERING**

*Though we gather around computer screens in our own homes, God is with us still.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ☩ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us,**

**renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG - What a Friend We Have In Jesus**

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge--  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
you will find a solace there.

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **WORD**

### **Psalm 23:**

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; <sup>3</sup> he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

### **John 9:1-39**

1 As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 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, 7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 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?" 9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." 10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 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." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." 13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 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." 16 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. 17 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." 18 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 19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" 20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 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." 22 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. 23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 24 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." 25 He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." 26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 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?" 28 Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." 30 The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. 35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen

him, and the one speaking with you is he." 38 He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

#### **Amazing Grace**

1 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.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

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

## **PRAYERS**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

### **A brief silence.**

God who restores our souls, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power. Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked, so that all may hear of your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God who restores our souls, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God who restores our souls, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God who restores our souls, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day, especially those impacted by COVID-19. We pray for those who are isolated and lonely, for those who are frightened, for those whose work must go on, and for those suddenly without employment. Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, CNAs, epidemiologists, public health workers, medical researchers, and all who work to protect our communities from disease. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God who restores our souls, help this assembly lift up the unique gifts of each person who enters, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help us to be creative and brave in making our ministries accessible to all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray together the prayer our savior taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

God has given to each of us- our selves, our time, and our possessions. God gives also the delight of springtime, the comfort of a phone call from a loved one, the reassurance of prayer. What God has given to us, God expects us to share. If you are in a position to make a financial contribution to support our congregation's ministry, you can mail your check to the church; the mail is being checked regularly. Thank you for your support.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**Thank you, God, for all that grows.  
Thank you for your promise, seen in rainbows.  
Thank you, God, for stars that shine.  
Thank you for these friends of mine.  
Thank you, God, for the moon and sun.  
Thank you for all that's given - for everyone!  
Help us, Lord, to learn to share,  
To be more generous everywhere. Amen.**

You are created in the image of a generous God. Go, be a blessing ☩ to others as you serve God with grace-filled, generous hearts and hands.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

**Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross**

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
There a precious fountain;  
Free to all, a healing stream,  
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross  
Be my glory ever,  
Till my ransomed soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
Love and mercy found me;  
There the Bright and Morning Star  
Shed His beams around me. [Refrain]

3 Near the cross! O lamb of God,  
Bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day  
With its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]

4 Near the cross! I'll watch and wait,  
Hoping, trusting ever;  
Till I reach the golden strand,  
Just beyond the river. [Refrain]

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

