



‘Worship at home’ Sunday October 27th 2024



As we come to worship we pray that we will
be open to God’s leading as we seek to
follow the ways of Christ.

Opening

Holy One,
Open our eyes to your Presence
Open our minds to your grace
Open our lips to your praises
Open our hearts to your love
Open our hearts to your healing
And be found among us.

Amen.

- David Adam <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au>



*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.*



Together in Song 129
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Have you ever been lost in the dark and unable to see your way?
Or do you wear glasses and find yourself unable to get out of bed
safely until they are firmly on your nose? Sometimes, however,
we use the verb “to see” to refer to more than physical sight.

Let me see whether it is going to rain today...

I see how to do that difficult maths problem now...

*I see why having coffee with a friend
is so important to you...*

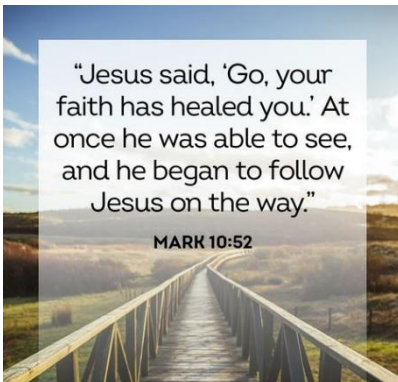


“To see” might then refer to understanding
or appreciating something in a new way or
seeing a bigger picture. We “see” with our
minds and hearts as well as with our eyes.

Mark 10:46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. *New International Version*



Can you imagine what it might be like to see the colours of the world around you for the first time?

In those days, a person with a disability or illness was an outcast, relegated to the fringe of society and unable to work or participate fully in the life of the community. We hear that Bartimaeus was willing to throw off his cloak, to let go of what was probably his most precious possession, in his haste to receive what Jesus was offering.

“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.”

Various other translations use the words “your faith has saved you” or “your faith has made you whole”. The Greek word for healing ‘σῶζω’ goes beyond both physical healing and being saved from sin. It implies ‘wholeness’, ‘restoration’, to be ‘made complete’. In this story, Jesus restores not only Bartimaeus’s

sight, but reconciles him to his family and community, that he might hope to gain employment and income, to contribute to his community, and to find a new sense of belonging and identity. Bartimaeus not only comes to see with his eyes. He also comes to see with his mind and heart, and to understand and appreciate life in a new way.

Jesus Christ offers us fullness of life which brings transformed relationships, restoration to community, and a new identity as we come to know ourselves as beloved and forgiven, made whole in Christ.

In what ways do you feel lost, excluded, unwelcome?

**In what ways might your life be changed
in an encounter with Jesus Christ?**

“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.”

Jesus invites those of us who are unseeing, lost or excluded to come and see. When we jump up and throw off the things which are holding us back, we find our identity and place in the community. We find ourselves freed to live the lives we are called to live, and to become the people we are called to be.

Prayer

So often, we turn a blind eye to things we do not wish to see... we close our eyes to the pain of others, or to issues we don't know how to address, such as injustice or those in need.



What do you close your eyes to?

- about yourself?
- about the world around you?

If your eyes were opened, how might you respond?

Imagine yourself coming to Jesus...

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asks you. 3

**What would it take for you to respond with,
“I want to see.”**

**As you bring these thoughts to Jesus,
hear him saying to you
“Your faith has healed you.”**

Loving God,
Open our eyes to see the world as you do
Open our eyes to each person's immense potential
Open our eyes to the needs of all your children
Open our eyes to opportunities to make a difference
Open our eyes and help us to see the way
to your glorious Kingdom
Amen



CBM-Online-Resources-worship-resources

Pray for

- Those who live with long-term illness, disability or blindness
- Those on the margins of society through lack of work, money, housing, support
- Those who feel lost, excluded or unwelcome
- Those who are fearful about their future
- Those who are suffering from the effects of famine, oppression, persecution, or conflict

Closing

Gracious and Holy God
give us wisdom to recognise you
intelligence to understand you
diligence to seek you
patience to wait for you
eyes to see you
a heart to meditate on you
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.



St Benedict <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au>