



'Worship at home' Sunday March 19th 2023

This is the fourth week of Lent,
seeking to grow our relationship with God
as we prepare for Easter.

You might like to keep a **prayer space** with a
candle and **cross** set up for the duration of
Lent, for your own prayer and reflection.



Light the candle to remind you of the presence of Christ
who brings light to our darkness and new ways of seeing.

Opening

Gracious God, who created us in God's own image,
we are grateful for all that you have done for us,
for all that you are doing in us,
and for all that you will do through us.

Open our eyes to see your presence among us,
moving in powerful ways at all times and in all places.

Open our ears to hear familiar words in new ways—
ways that will change us and challenge us
to become the people you created us to be.

Grant us the power and the courage
to come out of the darkness
and into the light of Jesus Christ,
that we may serve you by serving others.

We love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Amen.

- *Worship Elements*

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4792/worship-elements-march-22-2020>



**MY OWN EYES ARE NOT
ENOUGH FOR ME; I WILL
SEE THROUGH THOSE
OF OTHERS**

We each see the world through our
own eyes, according to our own
relationships, our own context and
experiences. This shapes how we
hear and see others, and how we
respond to the world around us.

There are times when we think we see clearly... there are other times when we are blind and unaware of what is happening around us... sometimes intentionally, at other times, not! Sometimes there are issues or social situations which some people are passionate about, while others don't see what all the fuss is. Sometimes we have certain expectations or assumptions that we find ourselves challenged on.



**Who or what do you take notice of...
which others sometimes fail to see?**

**Who or what are you sometimes unaware of...
which you could intentionally try to consider.**

John 9:1 - 11

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. His disciples asked him, "Teacher, whose sin caused him to be born blind? Was it his own or his parents' sin?" Jesus answered, "His blindness has nothing to do with his sins or his parents' sins. He is blind so that God's power might be seen at work in him. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light for the world." After he said this, Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud with the spittle; he rubbed the mud on the man's eyes and told him, "Go and wash your face in the

Pool of Siloam." (This name means "Sent.") So the man went, washed his face, and came back seeing. His neighbours, then, and the people who had seen him begging before this, asked, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "He is the one," but others said, "No he isn't; he just looks like him." So the man himself said, "I am the man." "How is it that you can now see?" they asked him. He answered, "The man called Jesus made some mud, rubbed it on my eyes, and told me to go to Siloam and wash my face. So I went, and as soon as I washed, I could see."

Good News Bible

Though the blind man had been begging outside the Temple for years, the people around him had paid him so little attention that they did not recognise him when he was not in his usual place. They had seen him with their eyes, but not paid any attention. Later in this passage, Jesus points out that the Pharisees are the blind ones, for not seeing.

Jesus on the other hand, saw him and paid attention. He treated him as a real person. In response to his need, Jesus healed him. The man then recognises Jesus for who he is. In his healing, he becomes spiritually aware.



When have you become aware of something you had previously been blind to?

How did you feel?

How did you respond?

Name out loud and pray for the people you don't always see or take notice of.

You might think of bus drivers, shop assistants, the homeless man at the bus shelter, teenagers hanging out in the park...

Open The
Eyes Of
My Heart
Lord

SOLIGCONSCIENCE



How might you more intentionally notice and connect with them?

You could smile and say thank you, or ask their name and say hello each time you see them...

Prayer

Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain, we would rather shut our eyes and be blind than see things as they really are.

Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world, and give us the strength to bring your light to those who walk in darkness.

Help us see others as you see them, and forgive us when we do not trust you enough to open our eyes to the possibilities before us.

Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God, and lead us in the footsteps of the Light of the World, who reveals your glory in his life, his teachings, and his love. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.



Words of Assurance

Christ came to lead us in paths of righteousness and to guide us through our lives.

Christ is with us in times of danger and times of peace.

The goodness and mercy of God are given to us each and every day of our lives.

God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love, and leads us to the place that Christ has prepared for us.

Believe in your heart that God loves you and forgives you.

We believe! God help our unbelief!

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Closing

Go into the world, carrying the light of Christ into the darkness!

We go, with hearts full and eyes open!

Receive God's love and care, and share that love and care with others!

We go, with eyes reflecting God's light and hands open to share it!

May you walk in the light of Christ all the days of your life!

We will follow Christ wherever he leads us! Amen!

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