

**St. Timothys United Methodist Church**  
3220 Terrace Drive  
319-266-0464  
<http://www.sttims-umc.org/>



**March 2, 2008 – 10:15 am**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

*(Large print bulletins and hymnals and hearing aid devices are available. A nursery is provided for children who have not entered First Grade. Ask an usher to help you.)*

### **Gathering**

**Prelude** "Passiontide" Higgins  
(We invite you to use the prelude as a time for centering on God, the Holy, the Spirit, the Living Jesus. Please be considerate of others for whom this is a quiet time.)

### **Greeting and Welcome**

**Call to Worship** Responsively

Leader: We have been in darkness,

**People: but now we strive towards the realm of light.**

Leader: We have been in death while alive,

**People: but now we seek the gift of life.**

Leader: We have been in bondage,

**People: but now we walk towards freedom.**

Leader: We have walked in the valley,

**People: but now we seek green pastures.**

Leader: We come to worship the love that knows no limits, and opens our eyes to see the light.

**\*Opening Hymn** "Open My Eyes, That I May See" Red hymnal, 454

### **Unison Prayer**

***O God, you have given us hearts to see as you see, yet we often do not notice things around us. Situations right in front of us demand our attention, but we don't know what to do, so we look away. Sometimes we see, but we don't understand. We need help but sometimes we are too stubborn or shy to ask for it. Often we fail to notice the wonderful value of the people around us. Forgive us, loving God, and open us to new visions. Amen.***

## Praying

**Call to Prayer**                    *"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"*      Black hymnal, 2193

### **Sharing Joys and Concerns**

(After each joy or concern, we sing, ***"Lord, listen to your children praying."***)

### **Silent Prayer**

### **\*Passing the Peace**

## Listening

**Scripture Song**                    *"Open Our Eyes"*                    Black hymnal, 2086

**The Christian Gospel**                    John 9:1-41                    Pew Bible, 102

**Anthem**                    *"Open My Eyes"* – Scott/Murray                    Chancel Choir

**The Sermon**                    "Overcoming Blindness"                    Dick Clark

**Sermon Response**                    *"Open Our Eyes"*                    Black hymnal, 2086

***"Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus."***

## Responding to the Word

### **Announcements and Opportunities for Service**

**Offertory Sentence**                    Liturgist

It is not commonly known that John Newton, the former slaver trader, who after becoming a Christian penned the famous hymn *"Amazing Grace,"* was in fact physically blind for the last several years of his life. Rather ironic, for the man who wrote, "I was blind, but now I see." We may not be blind, but do we see? Do we understand?

**Offertory**                    *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*                    Bradford

**\*Dedication Song**                    *"Seek Ye First"*                    +UMH, No. 405

**\*Prayer of Dedication**                    Unison

Leader: In a world that trusts in politics and propaganda and wealth,  
***People: we will trust God and go in God's ways.***

Leader: In a world that lives through injustice,

**People: we will trust God and go in God's ways.**

Leader: In a world that trusts in power and the powerful,

**People: we will trust God and go in God's ways.**

Leader: In a world that has a narrow definition of beauty,

**People: we will trust God and go in God's ways.**

Leader: In a world that wars too much and makes peace too little,

**People: we will trust God and go in God's ways.**

Leader: In a world that trusts itself,

**People: we will trust God and go in God's ways.**

Leader: In all our living, hoping, and loving,

**People: we will trust God and go in God's ways.**

## Celebrating Holy Communion

### The Invitation to Communion

This is the Lord's Table. We are all invited without exception because Jesus, our Lord, invites us all without exception, and we need to share this holy meal with one another. The Spirit calls us to gather, to come to this place and meet the Living Jesus. Come with open hands and open hearts. You are all welcome. Come now and take your place at this table where Jesus is Host.

### The Great Thanksgiving

Red hymnal, 15-16

### The Lord's Prayer

Unison

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

### \*Sharing the Bread and Cup

(Everyone is invited to come forward, receive the bread, dip it in the cup, and partake. Please bring a Communion offering for our St. Tims Hunger Fund, which helps provide food, utilities, rent and shelter for needy families.)

### Unison Prayer

***Gracious God, giver of all good things, empower us through our sharing of bread and wine to be your people, to proclaim in word and deed the love you have for all. May this holy food nourish and sustain us on our life journeys as we seek to follow Jesus. May his vision of your compassionate heart be our vision. May his courage be our courage. Now, send us out into the world you love, to care for that world and all life within it. In the name of Jesus, Amen.***

## Going Forth

### \*Closing Song

"As A Fire Is Meant For Burning"

Black hymnal, 2237

**\*Blessing**

**\*Blessing Response**                      *"Open Our Eyes"*                      Black hymnal, 2086

***"Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus."***

**\*Postlude**

*"Benedictus Qui Venit"*

Nordman

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