

Sunday 22nd March

Bible Reading: John 9 1:41 – Jesus heals the man born blind



A gathering prayer

God our Father,
open our eyes
to see your works in the world.
Show us your beauty in creation,
your healing in those who follow Jesus
and your actions in the Church.
Open our eyes to see you.

Amen

At a time when we feel like we are all trying to carry on with our lives blindfolded, this reading seems very apt.

Read from whichever version of the Bible you prefer, then think about what might have struck you about the story. How do you think that is shaped by recent events?

- Why wasn't everybody happy when the man could see again?
- Is it always easy to share in someone else's happiness?
- How can we learn to see what God is doing in our world?



Jeri's Mill, 2000
52 x 78 ins. Oil on canvas

- What do you see in this image by a blind artist?
- How might you/your church respond if Jesus said, 'you can see, but you are not seeing'?
- What steps might we take to make sure we really are 'seeing'?

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Holy God,
 for all the times you show yourself:
We praise you.
 For all the times you answer prayer:
We praise you.
 For all the times you help us see:
We praise you.
Amen.

Seeing prayer

With your eyes open, pray using what you see around you in the room as a prompt: for each other, for the world, for friends, for your journey of faith.

A prayer for others

Holy Spirit,
 show God's love
 to all who do not see him;
 show God's healing
 to those who cry out to you for help;
 show God's truth
 to those who want to grow in faith.
Amen

Say the Lord's Prayer

Live your faith 

Find some time this week to sit and reflect with your eyes closed. Open them as slowly as you can, and ask God to help you grow in faith.

Song suggestions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NG0vH4WYChQ>

Amazing Grace traditional version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrwkCOUOlil>

Amazing Grace (my chains are gone) Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7IF16s>

Be thou my vision Audrey Assad

Additional Prayer/worship activities

Sensory fun – cornflour mud

Mix 600g cornflour, 4tbsp cocoa powder and 2.5 cups water to make a ‘non-Newtonian Fluid’ – hit it hard and it will be solid, but slowly let your hand sink through it....

Imagine what it might feel like to have this rubbed on your eyes.

How do you imagine the man felt at various points in the story?

Edible mud

Make a cookie dough

You will need: ingredients (see below), a large bowl, a wooden spoon, a paper plate per child, metal spoons, wipes.

100g butter or margarine at room temperature, 175g brown sugar, 120g plain flour, 2 tablespoons drinking chocolate powder, 2 tablespoons chocolate chips, 2 tablespoons milk.

- Remind everyone that Jesus used mud to give sight to the blind man.
- Invite the children to tip the butter and sugar into the mixing bowl and use the wooden spoon to mix it, taking turns.
- Help the children stir in the flour and chocolate powder before adding the chocolate chips and the milk to bring it together. The mixture does not need to be smooth.
- Use the metal spoons to divide the mixture onto a separate plate for each child and encourage them to touch it and taste it if they wish.

Shake and settle Prayers

Understand how we need God to help us see things more clearly

You will need: a large plastic bottle with lid, soil, parcel tape.

- Prepare the bottle with approximately 3cm of soil in the base. Fill it with water, leaving around 3cm space beneath the lid. Fix the lid to the bottle and use parcel tape to seal it.
- Look at the bottle and think of someone you would like God to heal. Shake the bottle and keep silence as the contents settle.
- Suggest other ideas for people or situations we do not see clearly, and repeat the action of shaking the bottle and watching the soil settle as you reflect and pray.

