

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service on the Fourth Sunday in Lent**

*March 14, 2021*

Welcome

Prelude: *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* – David Paxton

Call to Worship

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good;  
**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Call to Confession

This is the judgment, that the light has  
come into the world,  
for people loved darkness rather than light  
because their deeds were evil.  
Let us uncover our sin before the liberating  
light of Christ.

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,**  
**we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints.**  
**We grumble about the evils in our world,**  
**even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit.**  
**We fret about the scarcity of resources**  
**while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor.**  
**We protest the problems of our world,**  
**but we do not actively work to address them.**  
**Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace.**  
**Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways**  
**that we may know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ,**  
**in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but in order that the world might be saved through him.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Prayers of Intercession and Lord's Prayer

Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Special Music: *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Old Testament: Numbers 21:4-9

Gospel Lesson: John 3:14-21

Sermon: *Live a Little or a Lot*

Hymn: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Prayer of Dedication for Offerings Received

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: *When We all Get to Heaven* – Mark Hayes

*Questions for Reflection*

What does the light of God's truth reveal about your life? Are there parts of your life that you want to hide from God? Can you imagine what it would be like to live completely transparent to God's piercing light?

*Household Prayer: Morning*

Loving God,  
draw me to your light,  
that I may avoid the dangers of sin  
and receive the freedom of your grace  
in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Household Prayer: Evening*

Lord Christ,  
as shadows of night draw near,  
sustain me by the light that banishes the fearful claim of death.  
Help me believe in you with all my heart  
that I may know the freedom of salvation  
and at last receive the joy of eternal life. Amen.

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music performed by Lorie Francis, Mary Kwantes, and Jeff Sandquist. Worship led by Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley. Portions of the service drawn from the PC(USA) Book of Common Worship, used by permission.*