



March 19, 2023

The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
The Reverend Jenny Anderson

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

*\*All who are able, standing*

ENTRANCE

GATHERING

*After the gathering, a bell will ring to signal the beginning of worship.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the Day the Lord Hath Made

Twenty-fourth

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* HYMN

152 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Forest Green

1 I sing the almighty power of God,  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad,  
and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God's command,  
and all the stars obey.

2 I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
who filled the earth with food,  
who formed the creatures thru the Word,  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,  
where'er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the sky.

3 There's not a plant or flower below,  
but makes thy glories known,  
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
by order from thy throne;  
while all that borrows life from thee  
is ever in thy care;

and everywhere that we can be,  
thou, God, art present there.

\* GREETING

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"  
who has shone in our hearts  
**to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God  
in the face of Jesus Christ.**

\* OPENING PRAYER

Discerner of hearts,  
you look beneath our outward appearance  
and see your image in each of us.  
Banish in us the blindness  
that prevents us from recognizing truth,  
so we may see the world through your eyes  
and with the compassion of Jesus Christ who redeems us. **Amen.**

\* ACT OF PRAISE

70 Glory be to the Father

Meineke

**Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that, as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 16:1-13

*Old Testament* p. 322

PSALM

Psalm 23

*response 1*

UMH p.137

***Sung response: My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.***

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's  
sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
 I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;  
 thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

*Sung response: My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.*

Thou prepares a table before me  
 in the presence of mine enemies:  
 thou anointest my head with oil;  
 my cup rennet over.  
**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me**  
**all the days of my life:**  
**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

*Sung response: My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.*

#### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

#### GOSPEL LESSON

John 9:1-41

*New Testament p. 125*

#### \* HYMN

454 Open My Eyes that I May See

Open My Eyes

**1 Open my eyes, that I may see**  
**glimpses of truth thou hast for me;**  
**place in my hands the wonderful key**  
**that shall unclasp and set me free.**  
 Silently now I wait for thee,  
 ready, my God, thy will to see.  
**Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**2 Open my ears, that I may hear**  
**voices of truth thou sendest clear;**  
**and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,**  
**everything false will disappear.**  
 Silently now I wait for thee,  
 ready, my God, thy will to see.  
**Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**3 Open my mouth, and let me bear**  
**gladly the warm truth everywhere;**  
**open my heart and let me prepare**  
**love with thy children thus to share.**  
 Silently now I wait for thee,  
 ready, my God, thy will to see.  
**Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

#### SERMON

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Healing God, we have languished in our blindness.  
 We have chosen to hide in darkness  
 in order to avoid reaching out and risking acceptance.  
 We are afraid of the light,  
 and yet we crave it.

In your light, there is healing and hope,  
 restoration and transformation.

**Forgive our lack of faith and our fearfulness, O Lord.  
 Give us courage to reach out to the light and accept its healing rays.**

May our lives be transformed by your mercy,  
 for we pray this in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Even though you have lived in darkness,  
 God's light is being poured out for you.  
 Accept the light and love that is freely offered,  
 and be transformed by its healing mercies. **AMEN.**

## CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses  
 as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

## \* THE PEACE

## OFFERING

## MUSIC AT THE OFFERING

I Believe

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining.  
 I believe in love even when I don't feel it.  
 I believe in God even when God is silent.

Mark Miller

## \* DOXOLOGY

95 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**  
**praise him, all creatures here below;**  
**praise him above, yet heavenly host;**  
**praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Old 100th

## SENDING FORTH

## \* HYMN

451 Be Thou My Vision

Slane

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;**  
**Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.**  
**Thou my best thought, by day or by night,**  
**Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;**  
**I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;**  
**thou and thou only, first in my heart,**  
**great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Great God of Heaven, my victory won,**  
**May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's sun!**  
**Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,**  
**Still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

## \* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go forth in peace.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
 and the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
 be with you all. **Amen.**

## \* POSTLUDE

---

## Ministry of Worship

Preacher	The Reverend Jenny Anderson
Liturgist	Justin Bergeron
Lay Reader	Nancy Clements
Greeters	Michael Young, Joan Piercy
Ushers	Charles Piercy, Warren Spooner
Acolyte	Annabelle Quattlebaum
Crucifer	Emmy Dixon
Organist and Director of Music	Jamie Council Garvey
Choir	The St. John Choir
Pianist	Larry Millen
Soloist	Courtney Enfinger
Worship Technician	Donald Tilton Jr.
Sound Technician	Allen Smith
Offering Counter	Mark Barron

---

**Wednesday Night Suppers:**  
Scan this code to see upcoming menus and to make reservations.



<b>Weekly Stewardship</b>	
Giving this week	\$1,540
YTD Giving	\$74,791
YTD Expenses	\$100,000
2023 Budget	\$565,081
Attendance 3/12	Sanctuary: 107 Online: 34

**Weekly Announcements:**  
Please visit this QR code or paper copies can be found with the bulletins.



**Online Giving:**  
Point your camera phone at the QR code to be taken directly to [StJohnAugusta.org/donate](https://StJohnAugusta.org/donate)




---

## St. John United Methodist Church

*St. John is a welcoming and affirming congregation.*

736 Greene Street, Augusta, Georgia 30901  
StJohnAugusta.org | 706.724.9641

Visit our website for more information, or connect with us [facebook.com/StJohnAugusta](https://facebook.com/StJohnAugusta)