

0:00

[Music]

0:10

[Music]

0:22

good morning Church it's kind of funny

0:26

worshipping in an empty room I'm

0:29

grateful for the two helpers we have

0:31

this morning you'll hear some music

0:35

we'll pray and if you go on our Facebook

0:38

page which you're on now there will be a

0:42

posting with the words over the prayers

0:43

a copy of the scripture and

0:50

just a brief link of where we are and

0:55

who we are welcome to church by the bank

0:58

on today March 22nd let's join in our

1:03

opening prayer as we pray together

1:06

gracious father whose Blessed son Jesus

1:10

Christ came down from heaven to be the

1:13

true thread would you give its life to

1:15

the world

1:15

evermore give us this bread that he may

1:19

live in us and we in Him who liveth and

1:22

reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit

1:25

one God now normally during the service

1:32

and you'll hear me refer to this because
1:34
this is new to us and it's very low-tech
1:36
this will be a time when I would invite
1:39
you to share your prayer concerns your
1:42
joys and your concerns your worries so
1:46
that we can all pray together as the
1:47
body of Christ
1:49
it's a little bit difficult today
1:51
because you're there and I'm here so I'm
1:54
going to just voice a few things that we
1:57
are concerned with a few ideas that
1:59
perhaps might have going through
2:01
mind as we pray for all of the
2:05
caregivers for all of the people that
2:07
have given up themselves sacrificially
2:11
to work with the sick we give thanks to
2:15
God and we lift them up in prayer for
2:18
all the first responders the police the
2:20
fire the EMS those that put themselves
2:24
in harm's way we ask John's grace and
2:27
blessing for all of those who are
2:31
struggling this time financially
2:33
emotionally just getting through the day
2:38

we ask
2:41
favor for the people who are dealing
2:44
with this by sitting at home in an
2:49
atmosphere that perhaps is not so
2:51
healthy we pray that God makes this
2:55
crisis go away quickly so that they can
2:58
resume is somewhat normal life and for
3:02
all of those who at this moment don't
3:04
know Jesus we ask that perhaps this
3:09
video touches their hearts
3:14
we closed
3:16
we always pray as children because God's
3:20
called us to be that God's called us to
3:22
be people that look to him for our hope
3:28
for our consolation and so as God's
3:31
children let's join together and praying
3:33
the Lord's Prayer our Father for how the
3:38
b9t thy kingdom come Thy will be done on
3:42
earth as it is in heaven give us this
3:44
day our daily bread forgive us our
3:47
trespasses as we forgive those who
3:49
trespass against us lead us not into
3:53
temptation but deliver us from evil for
3:56

thine is the kingdom the power
4:03
you're gonna find it on your Facebook
4:06
page a copy of John's Gospel chapter 9
4:12
verses 1 through 41 and I'd invite you
4:16
to follow along as I read it out loud as
4:20
Jesus walked along he saw a man blind
4:22
from birth his disciples asked him rabbi
4:25
who sinned this man or his parents that
4:28
he was born blind Jesus answered neither
4:32
this man nor his parents sinned he was
4:34
born blind so that God's works might be
4:37
revealed to him we must work the works
4:40
of him who sent me while it is in day
4:43
for night is coming when no one can work
4:45
as long as I am in the world I am the
4:48
light of the world when he had said this
4:51
he spat on the ground and made mud with
4:53
the saliva and spread them out on the
4:55
man's I say to him go wash on the
4:58
coolers
4:59
then he went and washed and came back
5:02
seeing those who had seen him before as
5:07
a beggar began to ask is this not the
5:10

man we used to sit and beg some were
5:14
saying it is he others were saying no
5:16
but it is someone like him he kept
5:18
saying I am the man but they kept asking
5:22
him then how were your eyes over he
5:25
answered the man called Jesus made mud
5:28
spreaded on my eyes and said to me go to
5:31
Siloam and wash then I went and washed
5:34
and received my sight they said to him
5:37
where is he he said I do not know they
5:41
brought to the Pharisees the man who had
5:42
formerly been blind now was the Sabbath
5:45
day when Jesus made the mud and opened
5:47
his eyes then the Pharisees also began
5:50
to ask him how he had received his sight
5:52
he said to them people but on my eyes
5:56
then I watched and now I see some of the
6:00
Pharisees said this man is not from God
6:02
for he does not observe the Sabbath but
6:06
others said how can a man who
6:08
perform such signs and they were divided
6:12
so they said again to the blind man what
6:15
can you say about him it was your eyes
6:17

he opened he said he's a prophet the
6:22
Jews did not believe that he was blind
6:23
and had received his sight until they
6:25
called the parents of the man who had
6:27
received his sight and asked them is
6:30
this your son who you say was born blind
6:31
how then does he now see his parents
6:36
answered we know that he is our son and
6:38
that he was born blind but we do not
6:41
know how it is that he now sees nor do
6:45
we know who open his eyes ask him he is
6:48
of age he will speak for himself his
6:51
parents said this because they were
6:52
afraid to the Jews for the Jews have
6:54
already agreed that anyone who confessed
6:56
Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out
7:00
of the synagogue therefore his parents
7:03
said he is of age as Kennedy so for the
7:07
second time they called the man who had
7:09
been blind and they said to him give
7:11
glory to God we know that this man is a
7:13
sinner he answered I do not know whether
7:16
he's a sinner one thing I do know though
7:19

I was blind now I see they said to him
7:24
what did he do to you how did he open
7:26
your eyes he answered them I have told
7:28
you already and you would not listen why
7:31
do you want to hear it again do you also
7:34
want to become his disciples then they
7:37
reviled him saying you are a disciple
7:39
but we are disciples of Moses we know
7:42
that God
7:43
to Moses but as for this man we do not
7:47
know where he comes from the man
7:49
answered here's an astonishing thing you
7:53
do not know where he came from and yet
7:55
he opened my eyes we know that God does
7:59
not listen to sinner's but he does
8:01
listen to one who worships him and obeys
8:03
his will never since the world began
8:07
hasn't been heard that anyone opened the
8:09
eyes of a person born blind if this man
8:12
were not from God he could do nothing
8:14
they answered him you were born entirely
8:17
in sins and you are trying to teach us
8:20
and they drove him out Jesus heard that
8:24

they had driven him out and when he
8:26
found him he said do you believe in the
8:28
Son of Man he answered it who is he sir
8:31
tell me so that I may believe in him
8:34
jesus said to him you have seen him and
8:37
the one speaking with you is he he said
8:41
Lord I believe any worshiped him jesus
8:44
said I came into this world for judgment
8:46
so that those who do not see may see and
8:49
those who do do see may become blind
8:52
some of the Pharisees near him heard
8:54
this and said to him surely we are not
8:57
blind are we jesus said to him if you
8:59
were blind you would not have sin but
9:02
now that you say we see your sin remains
9:05
this is the word of God for God's people
9:09
take a minute and pray with me lord lord
9:12
the word of my mouth and the message
9:15
that you put forward be pleasing to you
9:20
and you will know
9:22
for it is your worth that we need to
9:24
hear today your message that brings us
9:27
life and even help us to understand a
9:31

little bit better in Jesus name Amen
9:36
this is kind of awkward because
9:39
preaching to a an iPhone on a tripod is
9:43
not comfortable for me and standing
9:46
behind the pulpit is not something I do
9:47
regularly
9:48
I'm usually dancing around but here I
9:50
feel like I've got both feet nailed to
9:53
the ground and as gospel that you just
9:56
heard was quite long but I think it's
9:59
very appropriate and I want to explain a
10:01
little bit perhaps this is the first
10:03
time you're watching something on video
10:05
because there's nothing else to do in
10:11
most mainline Protestant denominations
10:15
we have what's called the revised common
10:16
lectionary and it gives us scriptures on
10:20
a weekly basis that we're able to work
10:22
off of and use which in three years will
10:26
basically take you through the entire
10:28
Bible we have four scriptures per Sunday
10:31
that are chosen for us
10:34
and I really really wanted to use this
10:38

one and I think in light of the corona
10:42
virus epidemic throughout the world this
10:46
is a very important one because this
10:48
feels not only with our faith in God but
10:54
our ability to trust God even when our
10:58
faith is there you see Jesus went to a
11:05
place where everybody had faith they
11:09
were all devout Jews they worshiped at
11:12
the temple and yet they questioned
11:17
because they didn't trust in the power
11:19
of God coming through Jesus Christ we
11:23
are in a crisis mode right now and we're
11:27
struggling and we're suffering and we're
11:28
dealing with a lot of doubt self doubt
11:31
doubt and our government officials doubt
11:34
in our health care system doubt in the
11:37
world at large and that doubt frightens
11:40
us because we've lost our trust we
11:44
wondered to ourselves how could this
11:46
have happened how could this happen to
11:49
us
11:50
country this great country of the United
11:52
States and the simple fact is things
11:56

happen everyday things happen and it is
12:00
an opportunity for us to develop a trust
12:05
level and God and to redevelop the trust
12:08
level in Ghana to understand that
12:11
everything in time works for God's honor
12:13
and glory one of the things that is
12:18
happening because of governor Murphy's
12:21
order here in New Jersey
12:23
is that families are required to spend
12:25
more time together for the last 50 years
12:29
all I've been hearing is how family time
12:32
has gone away how nobody eats together
12:35
nobody talks to one another nobody does
12:38
this nobody does that
12:39
I've heard about how children need to go
12:43
outside and play instead of sit in front
12:46
of a video game I've heard about
12:49
teachers having an easy job and all of a
12:54
sudden the tables have changed we are
12:58
now dealing with family time because
13:00
people are out of work and they have to
13:02
be home with their children because the
13:05
schools are closed shopping centers
13:08

libraries are closed game parks are
13:11
closed we are dealing with a
13:13
circumstance that causes us to grow
13:18
closer to one another if in fact we
13:20
choose or we can distance from one
13:24
another that's very similar to what
13:27
occurred in the scriptures today the
13:31
Pharisees who would attack the blind man
13:33
for being healed inevitably were
13:36
attacking Jesus because they didn't
13:39
understand that Jesus healing this man
13:43
on the Sabbath was a way to bring men
13:47
and women closer to God it was an
13:50
opportunity for them to trust in God's
13:53
providence in God's mercy in God's grace
13:56
and God's blessing and allow them to
14:02
grow closer not further this epidemic is
14:06
going to change life as we know it it's
14:08
never going to be the same we're always
14:11
going to have this
14:12
just like 911 just like a bullet just
14:15
like the age crisis just like y2k I keep
14:18
hearing all of these as I talk to people
14:21

but the simple fact is changes a
14:24
necessary part of life and perhaps what
14:27
we need to start doing right now is to
14:31
be just like the blind man he was
14:34
grateful for his sight how it occurred
14:38
was of no consequence why it occurred
14:42
wasn't that important his gratitude made
14:47
the difference he was grateful that
14:51
Jesus took the time to put mud in his
14:54
eyes but even at that point in time
14:56
jesus said to him go wash your eyes in
15:00
the pool it's alone Jesus didn't just
15:04
heal them and stamp his fingers and say
15:06
who was done Jesus requires us to be
15:10
part of the healing process and so as we
15:15
are going through the next few weeks
15:17
we're going to struggle we're going to
15:19
stress we're going to feel a
15:23
helplessness and I want us to rethink
15:28
what we do think of ourselves as having
15:36
the opportunity
15:37
to come to God and Thanksgiving for
15:40
those of us who are might be on the
15:42

front lines that we have the opportunity
15:45
to care for people for those of us who
15:47
may be first responders knowing that
15:50
there is a whole group of people that
15:53
support you and want to lift you up when
15:57
you feel down for those who are
16:00
struggling because their jobs are on
16:04
hold or perhaps they're dealing with
16:09
their children and levels that they've
16:11
never dealt with before because now
16:13
you've got them 24/7 it's an interesting
16:18
dynamic but it's a moment in time that
16:21
we need to transfer all of the acts all
16:25
of the problems all of the difficulties
16:29
and we need to transfer them into a
16:34
message of Thanksgiving thank you God
16:37
for giving us the opportunity to live in
16:40
a country where we can go and spend two
16:43
weeks at home or three weeks at home and
16:46
get through this virus thank you God for
16:50
giving us the technology the ability to
16:56
get through the virus through healing
16:58
and through the work of so many thank
17:02

you God for putting us in a financial
17:05
position in this country right now or we
17:07
have a
17:09
and help subsidize this difficult time
17:13
and most especially thank you God for
17:18
the gift of this moment right here right
17:21
now just stop and say thank you I invite
17:26
the people of church by the bank every
17:28
day to stop at noon to stop and just
17:31
pray because with everything going on in
17:34
our lives right now we are struggling
17:39
there's no answer to survive we are
17:42
dealing with so much that we haven't
17:47
experienced before
17:49
I've lived through 9/11 I've lived
17:51
through superstorm sandy they were tough
17:54
times this is tougher but we're gonna
17:58
get through it and we're gonna get
17:59
through it because we have the faith in
18:03
God otherwise you would have been
18:05
watching now we need to convert that
18:08
faith to trusting uh to take us to the
18:12
next level
18:20

normally at this time we would be taking
18:23
up our offering obviously with an empty
18:25
church that's not going to happen
18:27
but I'm going to invite you not to worry
18:35
about taking up an offering here because
18:39
so many are out of work somebody or
18:41
where the mortgage payments going to
18:42
come from so many are worried about how
18:44
difficult it's going to be I'm going to
18:47
invite you to if you have extra what you
18:51
would tithe or what you would give to
18:53
the church look for an opportunity to
18:57
help someone through this crisis time
19:00
whether it be a food bank whether it be
19:03
a school whether it be anything that you
19:09
think might work and if you can't figure
19:11
it out then you're going to see an
19:14
address on the Facebook page and on our
19:16
website please feel free to mail the
19:19
check it does cost money to stay in
19:21
business even as a church I know and
19:24
nobody ever wants to hear that church is
19:26
a business but it is we still have to
19:28

pay bills we don't get lights or eat for
19:30
free and if you have a time that you're
19:36
feeling down
19:38
I invite you to please call the church
19:41
someone will get back to you in 24 hours
19:44
our phone number is six oh nine six five
19:48
two zero two four six again it's on our
19:53
Facebook page and on the website before
19:59
I give the benediction I want you to
20:02
know that there's going to be a link on
20:06
the Facebook page for him because he
20:10
lives and as our closing today because
20:15
I'm not doing a solo I invite you to
20:18
just listen to that as we go also in the
20:22
days of technology I love the fact that
20:25
I can borrow someone else's prayer and
20:29
Reverend Nadia Bose whoever posted this
20:31
on Facebook this morning and as we go
20:36
about altered daily lives I'm gonna ask
20:40
you to join in this prayer as our
20:42
benediction Oh God who made us all our
20:47
healers are exhausted God give rest to
20:50
those who care for the sick our children
20:54

are born oh god grant extra creativity
20:56
to their caregivers our friends are
20:59
lonely god help us to reach out
21:02
our pastors are doing the best they can
21:05
god help us to know that it's enough our
21:09
workers are jobless grant us the
21:13
collective will to take care of them our
21:16
fellow parents are losing their minds
21:18
God bring unexpected play enjoy and
21:21
dance parties to all in need our grocery
21:25
store workers are absorbing everyone's
21:27
anxiety Oh God protect them from us our
21:32
elderly are feeling even more isolated
21:34
Oh God
21:36
comfort them and help us to know how to
21:38
reach out to them by phone or email or
21:42
text
21:43
we haven't done this before and we're
21:47
scared but we trust you we trust them
21:51
you can get us through and we don't even
21:54
know anyone else to pray for but you
21:57
know what's in our hearts