

## *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

### illuminating the Darkness (Inspired by John 9: 1-11 NLT)

Note: Before the reading, make sure all but three violet candles are lit including the white Christ candle.

Reader #1 - In Biblical times, an affliction like being blind from birth was believed to be the direct result of sin.

Reader #2 - It was by such a healing that Jesus would demonstrate an aspect of his divinity.

Reader #1 - From the Gospel According to John we read, "As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth."

Reader #2 - "'Teacher,' his disciples asked him, 'why was this man born blind? Was it a result of his own sins or those of his parents?'"

Reader #1 - "'It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins,' Jesus answered, 'He was born blind so the power of God could be seen in him.'"

Reader #2 - "Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smoothed the mud over the blind man's eyes. He told him, 'Go and wash in the pool.'"

Reader #1 - "So the man went and washed, and came back seeing."

Reader #2 - Thus Jesus demonstrated the power of God in him to remove sin, no matter the origin.

Now, please extinguish a fourth violet candle ... and return to your pew ...

(Thank you!)