

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – March 29, 2020**  
**Join us on You Tube!**

**Greeting and Call to Worship** *[responsive]*

Is God good?

**God is good.**

Is life worth living?

**Life is worth living.**

Is the best yet to come?

**Always, the best is yet to come.**

Then let us worship

As the people of Jesus,

Knowing that he is with us forever.

**Opening Prayer** *[together]*

**Almighty and ever living God,  
you invite us deeper into your world, your people,  
into the end of Lent.**

**May this time be one of outward focus;  
seeking you in those we often ignore.**

**May this be a time of inward focus;  
looking to your goodness.**

**Help us to finish Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and praise.**

**Give us hearts hungry to serve you.**

**In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession** *[together]*

**Most merciful God,**

**whose Son Jesus Christ was tempted in every way, yet without sin,  
we confess before you that we have sinned;**

**we have hungered after that which does not satisfy;**

**we have compromised with evil;**

**we have doubted your power to protect us.**

**Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness.**

**Restore in us such love and trust that we may walk in your ways  
and delight in doing your will.**

*[Silence for Personal Prayer]*

**Assurance of Pardon** *[responsive]*

Friends, hear the good news of the Gospel:  
our past is not the final word.  
The final word is to be found in God's everlasting mercy.  
God's fruitfulness will be showered upon us.  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

## **We Listen to God's Word**

**Scripture Readings**      Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.  
<sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Mark 12:28-34

28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?'  
<sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup>you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."  
<sup>31</sup>The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'  
<sup>32</sup>Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; <sup>33</sup>and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbor as oneself",— this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.'  
<sup>34</sup>When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Leader: This is the Witness to God's Word.    **People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*We Act*

Rev. Mary Austin

## **We Respond to God's Grace**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Prayers of the People and 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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## **We Depart for Service**

### **\*Announcements**

#### **Passing the Peace**

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

### **\*Commission & Benediction**