

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – January 31, 2021
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Join us on You Tube!

Opening Music

“Let All that Is Within Me”
Sandra Ragusa, flute

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

With nature in its power and beauty,
with wind and rain and sunshine,
with ancient rock and budding flower,
we gather in praise of God.

With believers and seekers the whole world wide,
with people in every land
and speakers of every language,
we gather in praise of God.

With Jesus who promised his presence
with the Spirit who showers her blessings,
we gather in praise of God.

Here may heaven and earth embrace.
Here may God’s people find a home.
Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Friends, not out of dread or fear,
Believing in the understanding and forgiveness of God,
let us rid ourselves of what we do not need to carry,
and find peace with God.
Let us bring our prayers to God.

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Holy God, hear our prayer.
We keep silent when we should speak;
and rush to speak when we should listen.
We see others for what they can do for us,
and miss the places where we should serve.

We are too quick to judge,
and too slow to understand.
We consume too much,
and give too little away.
Forgive us, we pray, and set us back on the right path,
drawing our hearts back to you.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon [*responsive*]

Rejoice and be glad! Our God is full of mercy,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.
Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
We dare to believe in the gift of a new beginning,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Scripture

Psalm 30 [*responsive*]

- ¹ I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
² O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
³ O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.
- ⁴ **Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.**
⁵ **For his anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.**
- ⁶ As for me, I said in my prosperity,
'I shall never be moved.'
⁷ By your favor, O Lord,
you had established me as a strong mountain;

you hid your face;
I was dismayed.

⁸ **To you, O Lord, I cried,
and to the Lord I made supplication:
⁹ 'What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?
¹⁰ Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!
O Lord, be my helper!**

¹¹ You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
¹² so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Mark 1:21–28

²¹ They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' ²⁶And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

Sermon

Invaders in the Sanctuary

Rev. Mary Austin

Music for Reflection

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"
Produced by Claudio Ferreira

Will Thompson

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 and Passing the Peace**

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

Response: "And also with you."

***Commission & Benediction**

Closing Music "Goodness Is Stronger than Evil" Glory to God Hymnal, #750

Participating in the service:

Deacon Kofi Kumi, Worship Leader
Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts
Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families, Children's Message
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence, Associate Pastor
Rev. Mary Austin, Pastor

The Call to Worship is adapted from the worship resources of the Iona Community.