

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – February 28, 2021
Second Sunday in Lent
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About Lent:

“What we hear during Lent is the power and possibility of the paschal mystery, and that the way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death. To appropriate the new life that is beyond the power of death means we must die with Christ who was raised for us. To live for Christ, we must die with him. New life requires a daily surrendering of the old life, letting go of the present order, so that we may embrace the new humanity. “I die every day!” asserts Paul (1 Corinthians 15:31).

Resurrection necessitates death as a preceding act. The church’s peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the “old self.” In dying, we live.” —PC(USA)

Opening Music

“Shepherd of Souls”
Sandra Ragusa, flautist

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

A word of encouragement came from prophet to people.

Live a life that is full – build, plant, eat, love, multiply.

Pray for your communities.

Keep God in the center of all that is.

We enter into worship today with hope in our hearts,

For something happens here

that reminds us that we can live as God desires.

God has made a promise of faithfulness to us,

and we can trust the promise.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

“Change My Heart, Oh God”
Becky Herron Mayo, vocalist

Prayer of Confession [*responsive*]

Loving and living God, we spend a lot of time searching

For a life partner

For success and prosperity

For help with schoolwork

For a place to go on vacation

For a vaccine!

But do we spend as much time searching for you?

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon [*responsive*]

God says, "When you seek me with all your heart, you will find me.

I will be in a manger. I will be in the Holy Place.

I will be among the lilies of the field, and at table with sinners.

I will laugh with children, and I will hold the hand of one who is sick.

I will grieve near the tomb of a friend. I will die on a cross. Wherever you go in my name, I will be with you to the close of the age.

When you seek me with all your heart, you will find me."

Thanks be to God for coming to find us in Jesus Christ.

Music for Reflection

"Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary"

Glory to God, #701

Donna Dannels, voice

Wade Meyers, voice and piano

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Carolyn Hayes

Scripture

Jeremiah 29:11-14

¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Luke 2:41–52

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents^[1] saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"^[m] ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years,^[n] and in divine and human favor.

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

Sermon *Searching for Buried Treasure Takes Time* Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

We Respond to God's Grace

Invitation to Generosity

Offering Song "We Are An Offering" Glory to God, #710

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."

Closing Blessing

Closing Music

"Here I Am, Lord"
Donna Dannels, voice
Wade Meyers, voice and piano

Glory to God, #69

The Call to Worship was written by Henrietta Stith Andrews.

Our music is curated by Wade Meyers, Director of Music and the Worship Arts.

Worship Leaders in the sanctuary include:

Elder Trevor Agard, with Ashley and Samantha Agard.

Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Family Ministries

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence