

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – March 7, 2021**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**  
**Join us on You Tube!**

**Opening Music**

"Take My Life"

Glory to God #697, v.1-4

**Greeting**

**Call to Worship** [*responsive*]

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,  
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

Lent calls us to worship together,  
to tell future generations the good news.

**Lent calls us to practice justice,  
to bring God's hope to all people.**

Lent calls us to faithful living,  
to trust the One who gives us life.

**Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,  
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

Lent calls us to journey with God.

**Let us worship God, who walks with us,  
this and every day.**

**Opening Prayer in Song**

"Change My Heart, O God"

*Listen to the music, or sing along, as our prayer this morning.*

**Call to Confession**

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

Holy God, so many times our hearts turn away from you:

when we are judgmental;

when we speak falsehoods;

when we squander your blessings;

and when we covet things that are not ours.

Forgive us, we pray.

Help us speak words of encouragement and truth,  
that we may be your faithful people.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

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

God, who is just and merciful,  
offers the grace of repentance  
and frees us to live as God's beloved people.  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**  
**Thanks be to God's abundant love!**

**Music for Reflection**

"40 Days"

Matt Maher

**We Listen to God's Word**

**Children's Message**

Carolyn Hayes

**Scripture**

**Ezekiel 11:19–21**

<sup>19</sup>I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, <sup>20</sup>so that they may follow my statutes and keep my ordinances and obey them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God. <sup>21</sup>But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, says the Lord God.

**Matthew 19:16–26**

<sup>16</sup>Then someone came to him and said, 'Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?' <sup>17</sup>And he said to him, 'Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.' <sup>18</sup>He said to him, 'Which ones?' And Jesus said, 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; <sup>19</sup>Honour your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>20</sup>The young man said to him, 'I have kept all these; what do I still lack?' <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to him, 'If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' <sup>22</sup>When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>24</sup>Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' <sup>25</sup>When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, 'Then who can be saved?' <sup>26</sup>But Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.'

Leader: This is the witness to God's word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Bending the Law**

Rev. Mary Austin

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

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Communion Music**

"All Are Welcome"

Glory to God #301

**Invitation to the Communion Table and Great Prayer of Thanksgiving** [*responsive*]

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and our greatest joy...

**Lord's Prayer** [*together*]

**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.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is present to us in this meal, and that presence comes through whatever elements we use. Please take the elements you have at home, and eat whatever kind of bread you have, and drink whatever cup you have prepared. The bread is the body of Christ, the bread of heaven, and the cup is the blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Take and eat. Take and drink.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

## **We Depart for Service**

### **Announcements**

### **Passing the Peace**

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

Response: "And also with you."

### **Closing Blessing**

### **Closing Music**

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

Glory to God #740

Participating in the service:

Mr. Daniel Anpoma, Mr. Ezekiel Anpoma, Worship Leaders  
Ms. Carrie Larsen, Director of Youth and College Ministries  
Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families  
Mr. Wade Myers, Director of Music and Worship Arts  
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence  
Rev. Mary Austin

Communion will also be served to GPC members and friends from 12:00 to 1:00 today in the GPC south parking lot and at Ballenger Creek Park in Frederick. All welcome.

The Call to Worship is adapted from the writing of Thom Shuman.

Congregational Meeting: March 14 at 11:15 am, via Zoom

The purpose of the meeting is to elect four members of the congregation to the Nominating Committee.