

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – March 14, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Join us on You Tube!**

**Opening Music**                      “Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil”                      Glory to God #750

**Greeting**

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

Jesus says: ask and you will receive, seek and you will find,  
Knock and the door will be opened.

**We believe; help our unbelief.**

Jesus says: Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden.  
And I will give you rest.

**We believe; help our unbelief.**

Jesus says: heal the sick.

Feed the hungry.

Free the oppressed.

Watch and pray.

**We believe; help our unbelief.**

Let us worship God in Spirit and in truth.

**Opening Prayer**

**Call to Confession in Song**                      “Change My Heart, O God”

*[Listen to the music, or sing along, as we prepare our hearts for our prayer of confession.]*

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

Merciful God,

**we confess that we do not want to be challenged by the cross.**

**We set our minds on human things—**

**we long for the security from our possessions;**

**we prefer our own comfort;**

Forgive us, we pray.

**May our sense of self preservation**

**be disturbed by Jesus;**

**that we might take up his cross in service to the world;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*[Silence for Personal Prayer]*

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

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners.

The Mighty One has sent deliverance for all people.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Music for Reflection**      “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”      Glory to God #475

**We Listen to God’s Word**

**Children’s Message**

Carolyn Hayes

**Scripture**

**Proverbs 3:5–8**

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own insight.

<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.

<sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

<sup>8</sup> It will be a healing for your flesh  
and a refreshment for your body.

**Luke 12:13–34**

<sup>3</sup> Someone in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’ <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’ <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ <sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup>And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” <sup>18</sup>Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” <sup>21</sup>So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

<sup>22</sup> He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup>Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>26</sup>If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? <sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. <sup>30</sup>For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>32</sup> 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

**Sermon**

**Dear Jesus: I Have a Problem**

Rev. Mary Austin

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

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Offering Hymn**

"We Are an Offering"

Glory to God #710

**Prayers of the People and The 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.

### **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**

"When We Are Living"

Glory to God #822

#### **Participating in the service:**

Mr. Aaron Tchouambou, Ms. Abi Tchouambou, Worship Leaders

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

Rev. Mary Austin

The Prayer of Confession was written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain. The Assurance of Pardon is from *Feasting on the Word – Worship Companion*, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long.

#### **Congregational meeting today at 11:15 am**

After worship, there will be a brief congregational meeting, via Zoom, to elect four members of the congregation to the Nominating Committee. The meeting link is in the Sunday email.