

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – March 21, 2021**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**Join us on You Tube!**

**Opening Music**

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Glory to God #275

**Greeting**

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

“For God so loved the world that God gave the Son . . .”

gather round

I have a story to tell

of one who reached inside himself

and took a handful of love

like a pile of stardust

**and said: this is for you**

**it is all you need**

**it is all you will ever need**

there is enough here

to change the whole world

take it

**many laughed at him**

**mocked him**

**and ignored the invitation**

but some dared to take it

and those who did

noticed something about this love

**they found they could do what the gift-giver could do**

**they could stand with the lost**

**welcome the traveler**

**eat with the hungry**

they found themselves doing what the man first did to them

give something of themselves to others

they became like the man

offering themselves

**and as they offered themselves**

**others took the invitation**

**and many still do**

**and many still trust**

it is enough to change the whole world

## Opening Prayer

### Call to Confession

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

Most holy God,  
we admit to you and each other  
that we are so dazzled by the false gods of this age,  
that we find it hard to recognise who we are,  
where we came from,  
or where we are going.

We are caught up in selfishness,  
seduced by cynicism,  
and waylaid by consumerism.  
Forgive us, God, and set us on the right path again,  
we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*[Silence for Personal Prayer]*

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

Fellow travellers on the road to Easter,  
always remember that there is much more forgiveness in God  
than we could ever exhaust.  
Receive from God, through the grace of Christ,  
the blessing of sins forgiven and a right relationship restored.  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

**Music for Reflection**      "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"      Glory to God #223

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

### Children's Message

Carolyn Hayes

#### Scripture

Psalm 86:11-13

- <sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O Lord,  
that I may walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
- <sup>12</sup> I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,  
and I will glorify your name for ever.
- <sup>13</sup> For great is your steadfast love towards me;  
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

## **Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52**

<sup>31</sup> He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’ <sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.’

<sup>44</sup> ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup> ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> ‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

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

**Sermon**

Everything?

Rev. Deb Vaughn

## **We Respond to God’s Grace**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Invitation to Prayer in Song**

“Change My Heart, O God”

*You are invited to sing along, as we prepare our hearts for prayer.*

**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**

"Be Still My Soul"

Glory to God #819

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

Rev. Deb Vaughn, Guest Preacher

Rev. Jacob Rodawla, 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 Austin

The Call to Worship is from the writing of Roddy Hamilton. The Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon are adapted from the writing of Bruce Pewer.

#### **About our Guest Preacher:**

Rev. Deb Vaughn is a hospice chaplain with JSSA, and has lived and worked in the area for many years. She recently joined GPC as a member, which is allowed for Baptist pastors. The session has acknowledged her ordination, and given her permission to serve communion, so you'll often find her in the GPC parking lot on the first Sunday of the month. She and her husband have two daughters who have "grown and flown".

While she's waiting impatiently for gardening season to truly begin, she writes, crochets, and bakes a mean loaf of bread.