



**seeking:**  
honest questions  
for deeper faith

GEORGETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
GEORGETOWN, DE 19947  
March 19, 2023

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**



**seeking:**  
Who sinned?

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### INTROIT

***“SEEK YE FIRST”***

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness...*

### WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. LISA SALITA, PASTOR

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

CONNIE SCHNEIDER

### PRELUDE

***“PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY”***

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

MINA MALLOY, WORSHIP LEADER

Scripture is full of questions...

**Where are you?**

Am I my brother's keeper?

**Whom shall I send?**

Who do you say that I am?

**Who sinned?**

How many times shall I forgive?

**If God is for us, who can be against us?**

Scripture is full of questions,

so just like those in our scriptures, may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

### \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

#### \*OPENING HYMN

***“O WORSHIP THE KING, ALL GLORIOUS ABOVE”***

*#2, v. 1, 4 & 5 With Chimes*

*\*Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand in body and/or in Spirit.*

## FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON - RESPONSIVE

Who here has sinned?

We have sinned. We put our heads in the sand. We ignored people in need. We make false assumptions and fail to be kind. We are in need of forgiveness.

Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score. When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives. When you lose your way, God comes running.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Have you sinned?

I have sinned. I put my head in the sand. I ignore people in need. I make false assumptions and fail to be kind. I, too, am in need of forgiveness.

Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score.

When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives. When you lose your way, God comes running.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

#### \*PRAYER RESPONSE

**"AMAZING LOVE"**

#259 (Refrain)

*Amazing love, O what sacrifice, the Son of God, given for me;  
my debt he pays and my death he dies, that I might live, that I might live.*

#### FIRST READING

**JOHN 9: 1 - 7**

NT, p.96

**HYMN OF REFLECTION “WE COME WITH QUESTIONS”***Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN (“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”)**CONGREGATION WITH CHIMES*

We come with questions assuming that there will be answers  
 Setting the world in an order that obeys our grammar  
 We want to know where Spirit’s river will flow  
 Frustrated by her meanders

Here is the mystery we claim as the followers of Jesus:  
 Christ has died, Christ is raised, Christ daily comes to redeem us  
 Grace free, not earned, whether or not we deserve  
 God works beyond rules and boundaries

God help us live into mystery beyond comprehension  
 Quiet our minds always clamoring for some direction  
 Give us your peace with all that we can’t perceive  
 Holding us within the tension

**GOSPEL READING*****JOHN 9: 8 - 41****NT, p. 96-97***SERMON*****SEEKING:  
WHO SINNED?****THE REV. DIANNE DEMING***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in a merciful God,  
 a God who does not keep score,  
 a God who wants good for us.  
 We believe in a creative God,  
 a God who would heal with mud,  
 a God capable of seeing what we cannot.  
 We believe in a saving God,  
 a God who heals,  
 a God who greets our questions with patience,  
 a God who sends us out with hope in our step.  
 What wondrous love is this. Amen.

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING****OFFERTORY****“LEAD ME, LORD”**

GPC CHIMERS

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE****“ALL THINGS ARE YOURS!”**

#687, v. 1

*All things are yours! We make that true when we return our gifts to you.  
And so we give, and so we share, in Christ’s strong name expressing care.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE****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.*

**\*SENDING HYMN****“OPEN MY EYES, THAT I MAY SEE”**

#480 With Chimes

**\*BENEDICTION****AMEN**

*We are grateful to Rev. Dianne Deming, who continues to minister to us  
and with us, as Pastor Lisa continues to recover. And we are grateful  
to Sallie Horner, our organist and Director of Music during Linda Wolfe’s  
recovery. Our congregation is blessed by your gifts and your service!*

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING MASKING**

**TO CONTINUE OUR PRACTICE OF FOLLOWING DELAWARE GUIDELINES,  
AND OUT OF CONCERN FOR OUR VULNERABLE WORSHIPERS AND  
FOR OUR NEIGHBORS AND COMMUNITY,  
GEORGETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NOW RECOMMENDS THAT  
THOSE WITH HEALTH RISKS OR CONCERNS WEAR MASKS INSIDE THE BUILDING.**

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## ***WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION?***



### Opportunities for WORSHIP

Our Choir is inviting YOU to join them as they prepare for special music for Palm Sunday and Easter. Come rehearse beginning next Sunday, March 26, immediately following worship.

We need seven readers and seven helpers (no speaking) during our Palm / Passion Sunday worship service on April 2. There's a sign-up sheet in the welcome area, or call Nancy in the church office. Pastor Lisa will follow up with details.

On Easter morning our sanctuary will be decorated with a collection of potted flowers brought by members of our congregation. On Saturday, April 8, the Church will be open in the afternoon to receive your flowers for decorating our Sanctuary. More details to come!!

### Opportunities to GROW

**Sunday School** for children and youth will be offered this Sunday and next Sunday during worship, following our Faith Sharing Time. There are special worship bulletins highlighting each week's theme.

On Palm Sunday and Easter, our children and youth will remain in the sanctuary for the full worship service.

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## Opportunities to CONNECT

### **Scrapbooking & Craft Event**

Join us on Friday, March 24 from 5 p.m. to midnight and Saturday, March 25, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$40, which includes dinner, breakfast and lunch. Contact Michele Fletcher to reserve your spot today. 302-249-0262 or [michelelemkgal@gmail.com](mailto:michelelemkgal@gmail.com).

### **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

As is our tradition, we will hold an Easter Egg Hunt for the children after Easter Sunday worship on April 9. Donations of candy and other small things to put in the eggs are needed - no eggs are needed. We'll collect them in the office April 3 - 6.

### **Annual Easter Breads Fellowship**

Immediately following Easter morning's worship service, the congregation will gather for our Easter Breads Fellowship in Tunnell Hall. This will allow time to prepare for the Easter egg hunt, which will follow.

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## Opportunities to SERVE

All the soups gathered in February for our **First Fruits Cart** have been taken to Wesley Pantry and our Shelter. For March's cart, we are collecting breakfast foods.

We are collecting a special offering for **One Great Hour of Sharing**. The bulletin insert provides information. Please use the envelope provided. If writing a check, please make it out to GPC and write One Great Hour of Sharing in the memo line.

Our next **Mobile Food Pantry** will be Tuesday, April 4th from 11-1 in our parking lot, in cooperation with the Food Bank of Delaware. We need volunteers to assist with set-up, distribution of food, intake information and clean-up afterwards. Please arrive by 10:30 to help with the set-up of tables and chairs. Let Linda Wolfe or Gail Brown know if you are available. Thank you.

***IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US— WE ARE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!***

*WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US EACH SUNDAY MORNING AT 10:00 FOR WORSHIP.  
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP, CONNECT, GROW, AND  
SERVE, OR FOR JOINING OUR FELLOWSHIP,  
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (302) 856-6842.*



## **GEORGETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Chartered January 27, 1860*  
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### **STAFF AND OFFICERS**

PASTOR	REV. LISA C. SALITA
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	LINDA C. WOLFE
OFFICE MANAGER	NANCY TALMO
PRAYER CHAIN CAPTAIN	BETTY KASPERSKI
EMERGENCY SHELTER DIRECTOR	MARI ELLYN HELLARD

### **SESSION**

**CLERK OF SESSION** KAREN BERRY

#### **CLASS OF 2023**

PEGGY HALLOWELL  
BATTLE ROBINSON  
AUSTIN SHORT

#### **CLASS OF 2024**

MICHELE FLETCHER  
BETH GARVILLA  
LINDA C. WOLFE

#### **CLASS OF 2025**

CHERYLE CHOUDHARY  
KASHER GULAB  
ANDY SALITA

### **BOARD OF DEACONS**

ALEX DONNAN	DORA GEORGE
CAROLYN GREEN	BARB CHUDAKEWICH
KAY MCCARTHY	BOB CHUDAKEWICH

### **OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT	BATTLE ROBINSON
TREASURER	THEO LAWRENCE