



seeking:
Who sinned?

*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love
by word and deed to all people.*

Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6

The Worship of God

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

Gathering Music

Prelude

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”
GBC Handbell Choir

American Folk Hymn,
arr. Jason W. Krug

Welcome

April Alston

† Call to Worship

One: In God’s mercy, we are set free from the power of sin and death.

All: God has offered us new life through Christ Jesus our Lord!

One: Now we are free to choose life,
and to use our lives to bring honor and glory to God!

All: Thanks be to God!

† Opening Hymn

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

Words and Music by
Bernadette Farrell

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

**Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

Refrain:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

(cont’d on next page)

† *Please rise in body or spirit.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. (Refrain)

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. (Refrain)

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. (Refrain)

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kindom come. (Refrain)

*During the last stanza of our Opening Hymn,
all children are invited to come forward for today's children's sermon.*

Children's Sermon

April Alston

Musical Reflection

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"
GBC Handbell Choir

Black Spiritual,
arr. Michael Ryan

† Centering Song

"Seeking"

Words and music
by Christian McIvor ©2023

What are we seek-ing?— Where do we hear God speak-ing? May our
ques-tions lead to deep-er und-er-stand-ing— through a
faith and love that nev-er stop ex-pand-ing.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics: "What are we seek-ing?— Where do we hear God speak-ing? May our". The second staff contains the second line: "ques-tions lead to deep-er und-er-stand-ing— through a". The third staff contains the third line: "faith and love that nev-er stop ex-pand-ing." The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases ending in a fermata.

Prayer of Confession

One: Who here has sinned?

All: We have all 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.

Words of Forgiveness

One: 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.

All: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Offertory Anthem

“Like a River in My Soul”
GBC Choir

Arr. Tim Osiek, ed. Dan Forrest

I've got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river, soothing river, calmly flow.
When the world closes in, feel the stillness within.
I've got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean, endless ocean, deep and full.
When you're lost and alone, let the waves bring you home.
I've got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul (in my soul...).

I've got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.
When your hope nearly dies, just remember, once again
You shall rise!

I've got joy like a fountain, love like an ocean, peace like a river,
In my soul (like a fountain, like an ocean, like a river),
In my soul.

† Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

O WALY WALY;

Words by Neil Weatherhogg,
Music: Scottish Folk Melody

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

† Prayer of Dedication

Julie Green

Scripture Reading

John 9:1-12

Zachary Brawner

Sermon

Who sinned?

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Silent Reflection

Invitation

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

† Musical Response

“Love Is Not Always Comfortable”

Words and Music by
Christian McIvor ©2021



Love is not al-ways com-forta-ble and truth is-n't al-ways so clear... So,



push us, pull us, shape and trans-form us, o - pen our hearts to you.



Love is not al-ways com-forta-ble and truth is-n't al-ways so clear. So,



push us, pull us, shape and trans-form us, o - pen our minds to you.



Love is not al-ways com-forta-ble and truth is-n't al-ways so clear. So,



push us, pull us, shape and trans-form us, o - pen our lives to you.

Celebrating Community

Anna Beth Cross

Benediction

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Postlude

“Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart”

Pam Weis

Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*Song texts printed in this bulletin used by permission with
CCLI License #295340 and OneLicense License # P-400143.*

Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Poetry by Rev. Sarah Speed | Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed
“Son, Rise” by Denise Anderson | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Cover Art:

“Son, Rise” by T. Denise Anderson; Inspired by John 9:1-7

Oil on canvas

Jesus’ community saw this man’s blindness as a curse or a punishment for sin (either his parents’ sin or his own). While it is true that blindness comes with challenges in a world made for sightedness, it is important that we do not problematize blindness in preaching and teaching this story the way they did. What happened here was an apocalypse—a revelation of the nature of Jesus and the heart and mind of God. That revelation challenged the epistemologies of the community, and it is the ones in the story who’d been sighted all along who were ironically unable to perceive what God was doing.

Jesus said that he “must work the works of him who sent me while it is day” (John 9:4). Daybreak is also an apocalypse of sorts; it reveals what we couldn’t readily see at night and allows us to perceive the work in front of us. In my portrait, I’ve lit this man’s face as if the earth and the sun’s light are moving slowly across the surface, signaling the dawn of a new day. His eyes remain closed in my portrait because, for me, his newfound sightedness is not the miracle or the most important part of this story. What’s most important is the revelation of who Jesus is. Jesus has been revealed to this man in a way that even the witnesses around him could not comprehend. His encounter with Jesus raises him to a new life and offers the whole community a new understanding of God’s works. It’s a new day for everyone, though that proves to be a difficult gift to receive.

—Rev. Denise Anderson

Scan to Connect
With Us:



Greystone Baptist Church | 7509 Lead Mine Road, Raleigh, NC 27615

Church Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 PM (M-Th) | Phone: (919) 847-1333 | Email: office@greystonechurch.org
Website: www.greystonechurch.org | Facebook: @greystonebaptistchurch | Instagram: @greystonechurch