



# seeking:

*Who sinned?*



SAINT LUKE'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023 10:30 am



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## In Preparation for Worship

"What if the "modern worldview" is itself a fiction, just another in the long line of futile human attempts to play God? What if Matthew, Mark, and Luke are right -- something's afoot that can never be fully contained or described by our human modes of coping with the unknown? In the miracles, it is as if Jesus pulls back the veil that separates the real from the unreal and shows us what is really going on behind the curtain of our limited notions of what's what. In miracles, God reserves God's right to work in ways that disrupt our settled opinions of just what God can and cannot do."

*- Bishop Will Willimon*

### Prelude

Herzlich thut mich verlangen

J. S. Bach

## Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship\*

Leader: Scripture is full of questions, like... Where are you?

People: **and, Whom shall I send?**

Leader: and, How many times shall I forgive?

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

Leader: Scripture is full of questions,

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

Leader: Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

People: **Come, let us worship the Lord.**

### Opening Hymn\* 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

### Prayer of Confession\*

**Holy God, who here has sinned? We have sinned. We put our heads in the sand. We ignore people in need. We make false assumptions and fail to be kind. We are in need of forgiveness. With gratitude for your abundant grace we pray the prayers on each of our hearts... (a moment of silence is kept for personal prayers)**

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer. Amen.**

### Assurance of Forgiveness\*

## Song of Praise 606\*

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture Reading

John 9:1-7

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## Tell Us Our Story

Van Herring

*Children are welcome to come forward for Tell Us Our Story. After Tell Us Our Story, parents will walk children across courtyard to Room 117 (3 and under) and Room 119 (PreK and K). 1st through 5th graders will gather in the narthex and walk with leaders to 252Kid and 252Preteen. Parents will pick up from The Dock and The Lighthouse. Of course, all children are always welcome to remain in worship with their families.*

## Anthem

“Sanctus” from Saint Cecilia Mass

Charles Gounod  
Jeanne Brown, soprano  
The Chancel Choir

## Sermon

Bad Questions

Shannon Dill

## Affirmation of Faith\*

from A Sanctified Art

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.

## Prayers of The People and 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.

## The Offering

The Greatest of These Is Love

Roberta Bitgood  
Jeanne Brown, soprano

*All are invited to participate in support of God's work at Saint Luke's, in one of three ways:*

- 1) Giving envelopes, available in each pew, may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.*
- 2) Give online via [slpres.org/giving](http://slpres.org/giving).*
- 3) Send a text message to 73256, starting with the keyword GIVETOSLPRES followed by the amount.*

## Closing Hymn\* 703

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

## Benediction\*

**Please join us in the church lobby for fellowship and conversation!**

For the latest Saint Luke's news and information, go to [slpres.org](https://slpres.org) or scan the QR code for the latest Highlights.

