

Monte Vista Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
3501 Campus Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87106

Live-streamed to our VistaStream YouTube channel
(<https://www.montevista.org/vistastream>)

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

10:00am MT

Order of Worship

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Dawn Rosignol

Prelude

Hymn Tune: 'Cheshire'
by Gordon Stater

Paulette McClellan

***Call to Worship**

Linda Hunter

One: Scripture is full of questions . . .

Left: Where are you?

Right: Am I my sibling's keeper?

Many: Whom shall I send?

One: There are many questions in scripture . . .

Left: Who do you say that I am?

Right: Do you believe?

Many: Do you want to be made well?

One: And even more questions . . .

Left: How many times should I forgive?

Right: If God is for us, who can be against us?

Many: Who sinned?

One: Scripture is full of questions, so just like those in our scriptures, bring your full curiosity and wonder into this space..

Many: May we ask and seek after, listen and learn from our gracious God.

***Opening Prayer**

Linda

One: God of Good News, we know that scripture is full of questions. Scripture is also full of stories that reveal your way of love and forgiveness.

Left: Love is not always comfortable and easy.

Right: Truth isn't always clear and obvious.

Left: So, push us, pull us;

Right: shape us and transform us;

Many: Open our hearts, our minds, our lives to you.

One: God of Good News, open our eyes that we will know your guiding presence with us.

Left: We want to know you.

Right: We want to see you.

Many: We want to embody your forgiving love.

All: With hopeful hearts we pray. Amen.

*Candle Lighting Hymn

Land of the Seeking

*Candle Lighting Litany & Prayer

Gerri Warner, Holly Truitt

Litany: On this Fourth Sunday in Lent, we encounter a man born blind seeking to have his eyes opened only to have Jesus' disciples want to know, "Who sinned to cause this man to be blind?" Our Lenten season has been calling us to confess our own sin instead of seeking out the sin of others. As we light four candles this Sunday of our Lenten journey, let us reflect on ways that we stray from the path with God and need transforming forgiveness (**light 4 purple candles on the congregation side of the ring**). May the light from these candles illumine the path of our Lenten journey toward embodying a forgiven life in Christ.

Prayer: Pray with me. God of grace, help us to see you and your ways for us to follow. Oftentimes, you call us out of our comfort spaces in order that we might have eyes to see you at work in the most difficult of places. Remove the blinders from our eyes and show us the way of forgiveness, both for us and from us. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

John 9:1-13

Linda

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of the one who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When Jesus had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

One: A word from God for the people of God. **Many: Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Hymn

We Come with Questions

(Please share your prayer concerns & joys with the office at office@montevista.org.)

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dawn

Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Blessed One, our Father and our Mother. Holy is your name. May your love be embodied in the world. May your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Protect us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For all that

we do in your love, and all that your love brings to birth, and the fullness of love that will be, are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music

Seek Ye First
arr. by Lloyd Larson

Vista Voices

Sermon Text

John 9:14-41

Rev. Meredyth Jones

Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders; for the Jewish leaders had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." The man answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but God does listen to one who worships God and obeys God's will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found the man, Jesus said, "Do you believe in the Son of Humanity?" The man answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And the man worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

One: A word from God for the people of God. **Many: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Seeking: Who Sinned?"

Rev. Meredyth

Call to Confession

Rev. Meredyth

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Meredyth

One: Who here has sinned?

Many: We have sinned. We put our heads in the sand. We ignored people in need. We have made false assumptions and failed to be kind. We are in need of forgiveness.

One: Have you sinned?

Many: Yes, 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.

*Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Meredyth

Sharing in Communion and Stewardship

*Invitation to the Table

Wayne Hammar

(Your tithes & offerings can be given via online donations on [our website](#), on the [Givelify app](#), or by mailing your check to the church office. Thank you.)

*Communion Hymn *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

Words of Institution

Rev. Dawn

Prayers for the Elements

Linda

Receiving Communion Together as One Body in Christ

(Everyone is encouraged to take Communion at the same time as signaled.)

***Affirmation of Faith**

Rev. Dawn

**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 welcomes our questions with patience,
a God who sends us out with hope in our step.**

What wondrous love is this. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

A Man Who Could Not See

*Benediction

Rev. Meredyth

Postlude

Choral in E minor
by Jean Langlais

Paulette

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Worship Leader: Linda Hunter

Paulette McClellan, Organist/Pianist

Frank Shaffer, Livestream

Rev. Meredyth Jones, Associate Minister, Preaching

Wally Miller, Sound

Rev. Dr. Dawn Rosignol, Senior Minister, Presiding

# Land of the Seeking

Melody  $\text{♩} = 125$

G C G C

11 G G/B

1. There's a place\_\_\_\_ you can get\_\_\_\_ to with-out an - y sound.\_\_\_\_ It's a place\_  
 2. There's a land\_\_\_\_ you can reach\_\_\_\_ if you fol- low your-self.\_\_\_\_ It's a land\_  
 3. Draw a map\_\_\_\_ with- out bor- ders and see\_\_\_\_ where you go.\_\_\_\_ In the co-

19 C G

\_\_\_\_ where the wick\_\_\_\_ has burned out.\_\_\_\_ There's a place\_\_\_\_ at the point\_  
 \_\_\_\_ be- yond hoar- ding your fears\_\_\_\_ so to quell.\_\_\_\_ There's a land\_\_\_\_ where the bot-  
 \_\_\_\_ ver of night\_\_\_\_ call a ques- tion a home.\_\_\_\_ Past the edge\_\_\_\_ of de- fen-

26 G/B Am D

\_\_\_\_ that's past turn-ing a- round.\_\_\_\_ There is a place\_\_\_\_ to be lost\_\_\_\_ long after you're  
 \_\_\_\_ tom falls out of the well.\_\_\_\_ There is a land\_\_\_\_ where your wor-  
 \_\_\_\_ ses you're ne- ver a- lone.\_\_\_\_ There is a place\_\_\_\_ where your wor-

34 B $\flat$  D B $\flat$  C

\_\_\_\_ found. (2)\_\_\_\_ ries and won- der can\_\_\_\_ dwell.

44 G C G A

Coax your qui - et ques-tion - ing. Speak your soft un - cer-tain - ties.

54 C G C

There is room for these\_\_\_\_ in the land\_\_\_\_ of the seek - ing.

3.

64 D B $\flat$  C G

Coax your qui-et

(3)\_ries and won-der are\_\_\_\_\_ known.

74 C G A

question - ing. Speak your soft un - cer-tain - ties. There is room for these.

84 C G G/B

\_\_\_\_\_ in the land\_\_\_\_\_ of the seek - ing. The com-pass points straight to the heart\_\_\_\_\_ of a

92 C D G/B A $m$

sha-dow of a doubt. The key is the most hon-est thing\_\_\_\_\_ that you can't\_\_\_\_\_ speak a-loud\_\_\_\_\_

101 G/B C D

There is no wrong way\_\_\_\_\_ to be un- sure of\_\_\_\_\_ things. There is no wrong way\_\_\_\_\_ to the land.

110 G C G

\_\_\_\_\_ of the seek - ing.\_\_\_\_\_ Coax your qui-et question -

120 C G A C

- ing. Speak your soft un - cer-tain - ties. There is room for these.\_\_\_\_\_

130 G

in the land\_\_\_\_\_ of the seek - ing.\_\_\_\_\_

# we come with questions

## LOBE DEN HERREN ("Praise to the Lord, the Almighty")

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Erneueren Gesangbuch (1665); harm. W. Sterndale Bennett (19th cent.)

We come with  
Here is the  
God help us

ques - tions as  
mys - t'ry we  
live in - to

sum - ing that  
claim as the  
mys - t'ry be

there will be  
fol - lowers of  
yond com - pre -

an -  
Je -  
hen -

- swers  
- sus:  
- sion

Set - ting the  
Christ has died,  
Qui - et our

world in an  
Christ is raised,  
minds al - ways

or - der that  
Christ dai - ly  
clam - or - ing

o - obeys our  
comes to re -  
for some di -

gram  
- deem  
- rec

mar  
us  
tion

We want to  
Grace free, not  
Give us your

know  
earned,  
peace

where Spir - it's  
whe - ther or  
with all that

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riv - er will flow  
 not we de - serve  
 we can't per - ceive

Frustrat - ed  
 God works be -  
 Hold - ing us

by her me  
 yond rules and  
 with - in the

an -  
 boun -  
 ten -

- ders  
 - d'ries  
 - sion



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in

3

gra-cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom-ise  
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

6

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
 we re - jice and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near and seek where you are found.  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

*Guitar chords in Pew Edition do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Glory to God 817

TEXT: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.

MUSIC (DUNLAP'S CREEK, CM): Samuel McFarland, c. 1814; harm. Richard Proulx, 1986; © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

## **A Man Who Could Not See**

LEONI 6.6.8.4 (“The God of Abraham Praise” CH24)

A man who could not see received the gift of sight;  
O Lord, you spoke and he believed and saw the light.  
His joy was greater still than sight that was restored;  
He saw, when you had made him well, that you are Lord.

Some leaders were distressed and said it was a sin,  
For it was on the day of rest that you healed him.  
They could not see the grace or know how much God cares;  
The lack of vision in that place was truly theirs.

O Christ, you are the light to all who follow you;  
You give to us the gift of sight — a new world-view.  
When culture hems us in with values that destroy,  
Lord, help your church to see again your kingdom's joy.

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