# 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'* Paulette McClellan

by Gordon Stater

\*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 <u>for</u> us and <u>from</u> 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 Vista Voices arr. by Lloyd Larson

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

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

Rev. Meredyth

Sharing in Communion and Stewardship

\*Invitation to the Table

Wayne Hammar

(Your tithes & offerings can be given via online donations on <u>our website</u>, on the <u>Givelify app</u>, 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

Worship Leader: Linda Hunter Frank Shaffer, Livestream

Wally Miller, Sound

Paulette McClellan, Organist/Pianist Rev. Meredyth Jones, Associate Minister, Preaching Rev. Dr. Dawn Rosignol, Senior Minister, Presiding

# Land of the Seeking





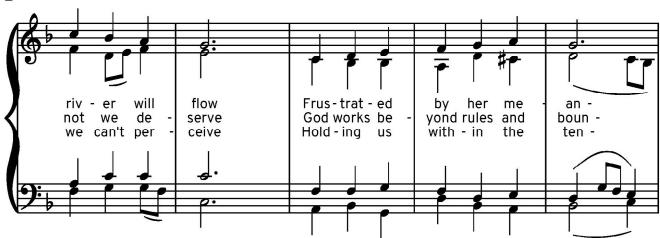
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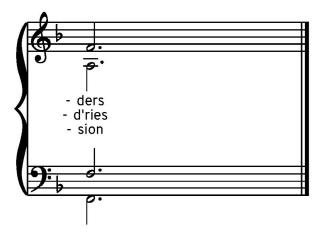
# we come with questions

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



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

## 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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