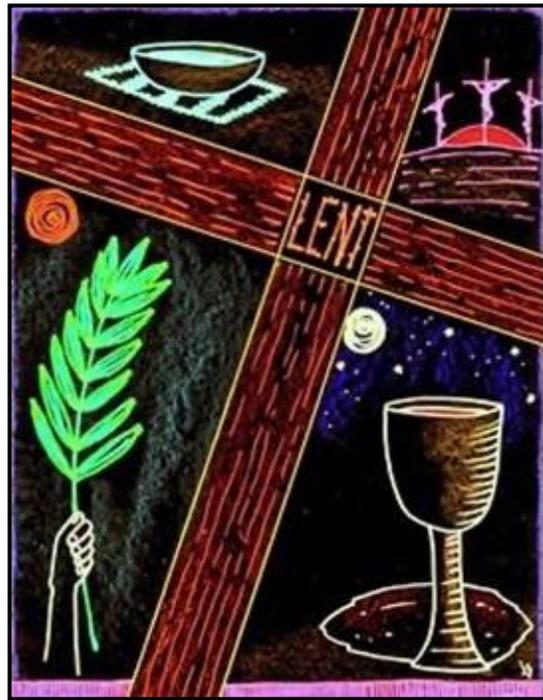


# Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – March 17, 2024

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

Church in person at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. | Livestream on YouTube at 11:00 a.m.



### Welcome

*Welcome to all! Please register your attendance with the QR code on the back of the bulletin, or with the online link, or on paper in the church Gathering Space. Need help? Ask any usher.*

### Opening Music

#### Call to Worship *[responsive]*

We have come together because of God:

**We are created and sustained by the power of God's love.**

We have come together because of Jesus:

**We accept his example that shows us what life means.**

We come together because of the Spirit:

**We experience a Holy presence that inspires and blesses our fellowship.**

Let us worship God through Jesus in the Spirit.

### Opening Prayer

#### Hymn *[stand]*

“God Is Calling through the Whisper”

Glory to God, #410

#### Call to Confession

Let us pray for the cleansing of our hearts, confessing our sins to the One whose mercy is everlasting.

## **Prayer of Confession** [*responsive*]

Redeeming God,

**we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart,  
and have not loved our neighbors as we ought.**

We have strayed from your commandments.

**Do not remember our sins, but forgive our iniquities, that we may focus our hearts  
upon you. Amen.**

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

## **Assurance of Pardon**

### **We Listen to God's Word**

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#### **Sacrament of Baptism (11:00)**

See Page 4

*Children and youth leave for class. Children can be picked up after church  
in Room 30/31 or Room 32/33. At 11:00, youth will be released from class to find you.*

#### **Musical Response** [*seated*] “Be Still and Know That I Am God”

Glory to God, #414

*sing 3 times*

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### **Scripture**

Exodus 24:12–17

Mark 9:2–9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Sermon**

Neon Jesus

Rev. Todd Sutton

## We Respond to God's Grace

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**Hymn** [*stand*] "Near to the Heart of God" Glory to God, #824

### Invitation to Generosity

**Offertory** "And Can It Be that I Should Gain?" ARR. LLOYD LARSON  
Praise Team

**Sung Response** [*stand*] "For the Beauty of the Earth" Glory to God, #14  
*verse 5*

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Prayers of the People

#### The Lord's Prayer [*together*]

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.

## We Depart for Service

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### Announcements

**Sending Song** [*stand*] "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" Glory to God, #546

### Closing Blessing

**Closing Music** [*seated*] "If You Love Me" JOEL RANEY  
Praise Team

### Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

# The Sacrament of Baptism

## Presentation

### Questions to the Congregation [*responsive*]

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Ethan Mastroni by word and deed, with love and prayer? **We do.**

Will you encourage Ethan to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of Christ's body, the church? **We will.**

### The Apostles' Creed [*together*]

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Thanksgiving Over the Water

### The Baptism

### Presentation to the Congregation

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### Participating in the service:

Katherine Williams, Director of Music

Elder Doreen Turczyn-Toles, Worship Leader (9:30)

Elder Scholastica Mulah, Worship Leader (11:00)

Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families

Rev. Todd Sutton

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

Thank you for  
worshiping with us!

[gpchurch.org/guestbook](http://gpchurch.org/guestbook) [gpchurch.org/give](http://gpchurch.org/give)





## March 17, 2024 GPC Events

**Children & Communion: A Workshop** – Today and next Sunday, following the Children’s Message, in Room 11. Parents are encouraged to attend.

**Easter Volunteer Opportunity** – To celebrate Christ’s resurrection and the end of Lent, we will make lunches for SOME following the 9:30 service on March 31. Contact Elisa McClelland if you can volunteer on Saturday morning to prepare for Sunday. Can you shop for supplies?



**Put GPC’s Spring Clean Up on Your Calendar** – Save the date and time now – Saturday, April 13 from 9 to 11 am, to help spruce up GPC’s grounds and gardens. It’s our annual Spring Clean Up and many hands make light work and lots of fun. Please bring your own gloves and your favorite gardening tools.

*We need your input.*  
WHO, ME...?  
YES, YOU!

**Come to JUMPSTART-  
Our All-Church Mini Retreat  
Saturday, April 20  
9:30-2:30 in Lindsay Hall**

**The anticipated results of the Jumpstart mini retreat are to...**

- Help us gain clarity about our priorities for mission and ministry
- Provide an opportunity to get things moving for a future direction for GPC
- Create our Ministry Discernment Profile (the required next step in our process)

It is essential that we have as many people present in person as possible. We know that this is a big ask.

We also believe that the future of our church is worth this investment.

So mark your calendars, and invite others to join you! Lunch provided (suggested donation of \$5).



## ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS ONLINE



Easter flowers are \$14 per plant.

The last day to place an order is next Sunday, March 24.

Ordering online can be done in two easy steps:

**I. FILL OUT THE  
ORDER FORM**

by scanning this  
QR code or visiting  
[gpchurch.org/flower-form](http://gpchurch.org/flower-form)



**2. SUBMIT ONLINE PAYMENT**

by clicking the button at the bottom of  
the order form

**or PAY BY CHECK**

by mail or in the offering plate

*You may take your plant(s) home after the 11:00 service on Easter Sunday.*

## Weekly Announcements

**Announcements** – Brief announcements of no more than 4 lines should be emailed to [bulletin@gpchurch.org](mailto:bulletin@gpchurch.org) by 7pm on Tuesday. Longer announcements may be edited to fit space requirements.

**The Nominating Committee** seeks Elder and Deacon nominations for three-year terms. Elders are spiritual leaders with wisdom and vision who lead the church to live out the will of God in a particular time and place. Deacons are spiritual leaders with particular gifts of compassion and confidentiality who visit the sick and homebound. To nominate yourself or someone else, please contact Elisa McClelland or Edge Kaunda. Please don't be shy!

**Spring into Action!** – No reason to keep putting it off, **Add Your Smile** to GPC's online directory. Let's fill up our directory with smiling faces by Easter! If you are a member of our online worshiping community, just email your photo to [pwhiteh@hotmail.com](mailto:pwhiteh@hotmail.com). He will post it for you. Or, you can add a photo yourself by following the video and written directions on the Member Portal section of the GPC website. When you worship at GPC, anyone can have their photo taken in Lindsay Hall after church services.

**Celtic Blessings on this St. Patrick's Day!** – It's not only Irish eyes that are smiling when they see GPC attendees wearing their name tags today, but everyone in our beautifully diverse congregation lights up when they can identify a church family member by name. Wear your name tag and give everyone a reason to smile!

**Help for Summit Hall Families** - Families have expressed a need for boys' sweatpants. Please consider giving either new, or very gently used sweatpants for boys aged 5-10. Sizes XS, S, M, L, XL. These can be dropped off under the mailboxes near the church office.

**During Lent** – We are reading *Sailboat Church* by Rev. Joan Gray. Join us while we engage in 40 days of prayer. Scan to download the devotional.



**March Creation Care Committee Recommendation** – At present, 5 million people rely on water from the Potomac River for drinking; however, it is illegal to swim or fish in it due to concerns of pollution. What can we do? Support replanting and reforestation near stream banks and elsewhere. Pick up trash especially near storm drains. Use eco-friendly fertilizers, and support organizations that work to clean and protect our waterways. Jesus offers us his "living water" so that we can spread His love; we in turn can show our love by providing clean water to live by.

**Little Free Food Pantry** – The need continues for our food insecure neighbors. Will you please continue to provide shelf-stable, quality food and cans with pop top lids. Place donations directly in the pantry or in the wooden bin in the Gathering Space. If you would rather, you can make a monetary donation online or via check designating the Pantry. This week's needed item is **Peanut Butter**. Thank you for faithfully donating to our Food Pantry.

WEEKLY  
*Virtual Meetings*

**Monday Morning Coffee - 10:30 am on zoom**  
All welcome. Please join us for a few moments to say hello or stay the whole time.  
Never been before? We'll be glad to see you.

**Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7:30-8:30 pm on Google Meet**  
Join the Wednesday evening group in a 9 session Hebrews study.

**Email [office@gpchurch.org](mailto:office@gpchurch.org) to request the links**