

March 19, 2023
Lent 4

Service of Worship
"Who Sinned?"

First Presbyterian Church
Cedar Falls

Prelude

Welcome

Special Music

"Pie Jesu" Ruthellen Brooks and Lilly Kallenberger
from the Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Requiem*

Call to Worship*

One: Scripture is full of questions...

ALL: Where are you?

One: Am I my brother's keeper?

ALL: Whom shall I send?

One: Who do you say that I am?

ALL: Who sinned?

One: How many times shall I forgive?

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

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

ALL: Let us sing of the God who meets seekers where they are.

Gathering Hymn

"Weary Seekers" (tune: 720 Jesus Calls Us)

verses 1 & 4

1. Weary seekers, wan'dring seekers, in God's presence loved and known.
Lonely seekers, misfit seekers; all belong; we are God's own.
4. We are seekers, drawn together, flawed yet touched by spirit fire.
We'll seek God with one another, seek to love, seek God's desire.

Invitation to Confession*

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.

Quiet Reflection

Assurance of Grace*

One: Hear the 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.

One: Now share this Good News with one another:

ALL: We belong to God. We are held in God's love. We are made new. Amen.

Our Response to Grace #447

"We Are Forgiven"

Time for Wonder *children are invited forward*

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We Bless Each Other *Kids: God be with you as you stay. Adults: God be with you as you go.*

Prayer for Illumination*

Scripture Reading John 9:1-7(8-41)

One: The word of God-With-Us. ALL: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Response to the Word "A Man Who Could Not See"¹ Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
TUNE: #49 "The God of Abraham Praise"

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Offering Invitation & Dedication

Gifts may also be given online at firstprescf.org

Sung Offering Dedication #710 "We Lift Our Voices"

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Specific congregational prayer concerns are listed in the weekly newsletter

Our Life Together

Sending Hymn 744 "Arise Your Light is Come"

Blessing and Charge

Postlude

Go in peace and boldness to love and serve the God-With-Us!

**Liturgy for this service has been adapted from liturgy written by
Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

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