

Visions United Spirit Gathering
Lent 4 – March 19, 2023
seeking: honest questions for deeper faith
Who sinned?

* *Stand as able*

Our Community Gathers

Gathering Music/Prelude

Welcome

God's Doors Are Open to All!
Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts
 Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all
 races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,
 sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

Acknowledgement of Land

One: We remember with gratitude
 that we live and worship on lands that are, by law,
 the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq.

**All: May we live with respect on this land,
 and in peace and friendship with its people.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sharing the Peace & Lighting Peace Candle

One: Peace of Christ Be With You
 All: And Also With You

Sharing of WOW Moments

* **Song** (*stand*) MV#28 God of the Bible (vs. 1,2,3&5)

Words: Shirley Erena Murray ©1996 Hope Publishing

Music: Tony E. Alonso ©GIA Publications

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Invitation to Gather

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: We come asking and seeking
 honest questions for a deeper faith.**

Poem Video

Jesus in the psych ward

by Sarah Speed

*Inspired by the poem, Jesus at the Gay Bar, by Jay Hulmes.
 Published in the Backwater Sermons. (Canterbury Press, 2021)*

A Seeking Prayer & Promise of Grace

adapted: prayers by Rev. Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC ©sanctifiedart.org

One: Who here has sinned?

All: We have 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.

One: This is the Good news!

Our God is Grace.

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 for a Love like this.

All: Have you sinned?

One: 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 am in need of forgiveness.

All: This is the Good news!

Our God is Grace.

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.

One: Thanks be for a Love like this! Amen.

We Listen for Wisdom

Community Art Creation

seeking: honest questions for a deeper faith

Song (*seated*) VU#356 Seek Ye First (*replace 'Hallelujah' with 'Amen'*)

Words/Music: Karen Lafferty ©1972 Maranatha Music

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(*Children leave for programing*)

Theme Reflection

Preparing the Scene

Wisdom Reading

John 9:1-41

Storyteller: Linnea Good ©By-Heart Ministries

Special Music

O Beautiful Gaia

Words/Music: Carolyn McDade, Arr. ©2006 Lydia Pedersen

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Reflection

Wondering Questions for Conversation & Prayer

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer**Song** MV#157 I Am A Child of GodWords/music © 2002 Bruce and Cheryl Harding
All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 720804.**Community at Prayer****Invitation to Generosity & Sharing of Our Gifts****The Work of the Congregation - Announcements****We Go Forth to Be a Blessing*****Song** VU#266 Amazing Grace How Sweet the SoundWords: John Henry Newton, 1779. Music: Public Domain
All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A - 720804**Changing of the Light and Blessing****Postlude Music for the Journey*****Thank You for Joining Us!***
May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.