

STONE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

March 19, 2023

Seeking: Who Sinned?

"The truth is, we don't know, but the hope is that we could know more if only we would take the time to ask better questions."

-Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow

PRELUDE *St. Patrick's Prayer* arr. Bo Kim
Anthony Bullett

WELCOME Pastor Cindy

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather in community, embracing a weekly rhythm of need

All: For comfort, for security, for belonging, and connection.

One: We gather in community, expecting to grow

All: But requiring compassion for our assumptions, our certainties, our stubbornness.

One: Together, may we be surprised by all we have yet to discover

All: In ourselves, in each other, and in our God.

One: Let us worship, fully attuned to curiosity, hope, and unconditional love.

*SONG *We Come with Questions* Anna Strickland

We come with questions assuming that there will be answers

Setting the world in an order that obeys our grammar

We want to know where Spirit's river will flow

Frustrated by her meanders

Here is the mystery we claim as the followers of Jesus:

Christ has died, Christ is raised, Christ daily comes to redeem us

Grace free, not earned, whether or not we deserve

God works beyond rules and boundaries

God help us live into mystery beyond comprehension

Quiet our minds always clamoring for some direction

Give us your peace with all that we can't perceive

Holding us within the tension

SCRIPTURE STORYTELLING John 9: 1-41 Pastors Cindy & Ben

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Pastor Ben

This is the third Sunday of the month...so it's Food Pantry Sunday! As the young people come forward they will gather your contributions.

POEM *I Used To Be Blind But Now I See* Martha Swigart
By Abigail Peace

MUSICAL REFLECTION *Pange Lingua* Mary Beth Bennett
Anthony Bullett

MESSAGE *It's Complicated* Pastor Ben

SONG *Open My Eyes*[^] Jesse Maibusen

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

PRAYING IN COMMUNITY

SHARING Pastor Cindy

SONG *Open My Eyes*[^] Jesse Manibusen

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

SPOKEN PRAYER Pastor Cindy

POEM *Jesus in the Psych Ward* Martha Swigart
By Sarah Are Speed

ANTHEM *Child of God*[^] Mark A. Miller

SENDING Pastor Ben

POSTLUDE *Passion Chorale/
Herzlich Thut Mich Verlangen* Rebecca Telvede
Anthony Bullett

*Please Rise, as Able, in Body or Spirit

[^]Music reprinted with permission under One License # A-723165

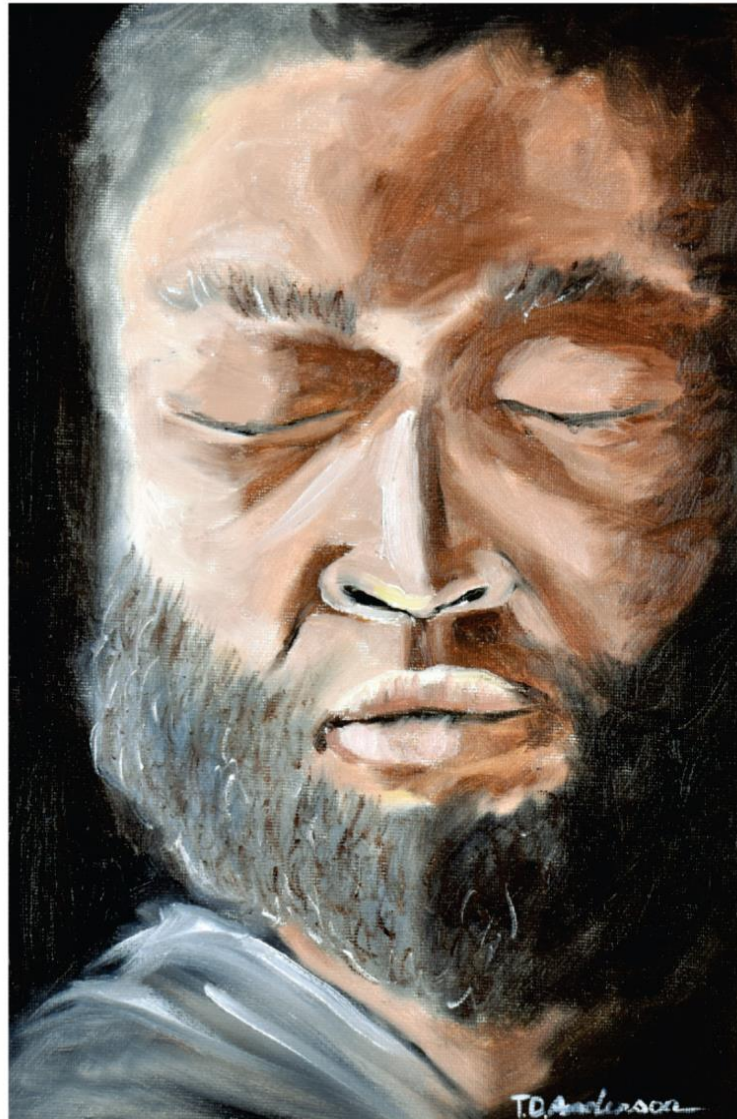
^{^^}Liturgy/music used or adapted with permission of sanctifiedart.org



seeking: Who sinned?

4th Sunday in Lent | Year A

MAIN IDEA: There aren't always answers to our questions.



SCRIPTURE SUMMARY

John 9:1-41

The disciples asked Jesus, "Who sinned to make this man blind?" Jesus replied, "That's the wrong question to ask. This man isn't blind because of sin at all." Then Jesus took some mud, put it on the man's eyes and he was able to see.

"Son, Rise"

by T. Denise Anderson, inspired by today's gospel text, John 9:1-7



seeking in images

flip to the cover artwork & take a closer look!

Are there things that are hard for you to believe?

Do you think every question has an answer? Can you think of a question that doesn't have an answer?

What story do you imagine is taking place in this picture?



mud

The Seeking logo was designed by Lauren Wright Pittman. Do you see the drop of mud? In the text for today, Jesus rubs mud on the blind man's eyes. **Color the mud in the graphic above.**