



# seeking:

*Who sinned?*

## **PRELUDE:**

## **WELCOME:**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Scripture is full of questions...

**Where are you?**

**Am I my brother's keeper?**

Whom shall I send?

Who do you say that I am?

**Who sinned?**

**How many times shall I forgive?**

**If God is for us, who can be against us?**

Scripture is full of questions,  
so may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.  
Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

**Amen.**

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

God of Good news,

**Bend your ear to our prayers and come among us. By your gracious life and Word, bring light into the darkness of our hearts. Anoint us with your Spirit and help us to know you. With hopeful hearts we pray,  
Amen.**

## **GATHERING SONG: "Glory to God, Forever" – (All Services)**

### **Verse 1**

Before the world was made  
Before You spoke it to be  
You were the King of kings  
Yeah You were yeah You were  
And now You're reigning still  
Enthroned above all things  
Angels and saints cry out  
We join them as we sing

### **Chorus**

Glory to God  
Glory to God  
Glory to God forever  
Glory to God  
Glory to God  
Glory to God forever

### **Verse 2**

Creator God You gave me breath  
So I could praise  
Your great and matchless name  
All my days all my days  
So let my whole life be  
A blazing offering  
A life that shouts and sings  
The greatness of our King

### **Bridge**

Take my life and let it be  
All for You and for Your glory  
Take my life and let it be Yours  
Take my life and let it be  
All for You and for Your glory  
Take my life and let it be Yours

CCLI Song # 5384338  
Steve Fee | Vicky Beeching  
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## **GATHERING SONG 2: "Open Up the Heavens" - (Sunday Tempe only)**

### **Verse 1**

We've waited for this day  
We're gathered in Your Name  
Calling out to You  
Your glory like a fire awakening desire  
Will burn our hearts with truth

### **Pre-Chorus**

You're the reason we're here  
You're the reason we're singing

## Chorus

Open up the heavens we want to see You  
Open up the floodgates a mighty river  
Flowing from Your heart  
Filling every part of our praise

## Verse 2

Your presence in this place  
Your glory on our face  
We're looking to the sky  
Descending like a cloud  
You're standing with us now  
Lord unveil our eyes

## Bridge

Show us show us Your glory  
Show us show us Your power  
Show us show us Your glory Lord

CCLI Song # 6304702  
Andi Rozier | James Macdonald | Jason Ingram | Meredith Andrews | Stuart Garrard  
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## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus, He loves me  
He loves me, He is for me  
Jesus, how can it be  
He loves me, He is for me

Sat 5pm Tempe: **NO** Children's Message  
Sunday Gilbert: *Music only*  
Sunday 10:30 Tempe: *Music and Lyrics*

## TEMPE SPECIAL MUSIC:

*"This Is My Body"*  
Sanctuary Choir  
(Sunday only)

## GILBERT SPECIAL MUSIC:

*"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"*  
Leanna Ihlefeld & Carolyn Perkins

## FIRST LESSON: Psalm 23 - responsively (NKJV Version)

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd;

**I shall not want.**

<sup>2</sup>He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

**He leads me beside the still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>**He restores my soul;**

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

**I will fear no evil;  
For You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
**You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runs over.**

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life;  
**And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever.**

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *"Let Your Steadfast Love" – ELW Setting 8*

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.  
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.  
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.  
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

**GOSPEL: John 9:1-41** (NIV Version)

<sup>1</sup>As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>"Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?"

<sup>3</sup>"It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. <sup>4</sup>We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. <sup>5</sup>But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world."

<sup>6</sup>Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man's eyes. <sup>7</sup>He told him, "Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam" (Siloam means "sent"). So the man went and washed and came back seeing!

<sup>8</sup> His neighbors and others who knew him as a blind beggar asked each other, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some said he was, and others said, "No, he just looks like him!"

But the beggar kept saying, "Yes, I am the same one!"

<sup>10</sup> They asked, "Who healed you? What happened?"

<sup>11</sup> He told them, "The man they call Jesus made mud and spread it over my eyes and told me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash yourself.' So I went and washed, and now I can see!"

<sup>12</sup> "Where is he now?" they asked.

"I don't know," he replied.

<sup>13</sup> Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees, <sup>14</sup> because it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud and healed him. <sup>15</sup> The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them, "He put the mud over my eyes, and when I washed it away, I could see!"

<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath." Others said, "But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?" So there was a deep division of opinion among them.

<sup>17</sup> Then the Pharisees again questioned the man who had been blind and demanded, "What's your opinion about this man who healed you?"

The man replied, "I think he must be a prophet."

<sup>18</sup> The Jewish leaders still refused to believe the man had been blind and could now see, so they called in his parents. <sup>19</sup> They asked them, "Is this your son? Was he born blind? If so, how can he now see?"

<sup>20</sup> His parents replied, "We know this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup> but we don't know how he can see or who healed him. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had announced that anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> That's why they said, "He is old enough. Ask him."

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, "God should get the glory for this, because we know this man Jesus is a sinner."

<sup>25</sup> "I don't know whether he is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"

<sup>26</sup> "But what did he do?" they asked. "How did he heal you?"

<sup>27</sup> "Look!" the man exclaimed. "I told you once. Didn't you listen? Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

<sup>28</sup> Then they cursed him and said, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses! <sup>29</sup> We know God spoke to Moses, but we don't even know where this man comes from."

<sup>30</sup> "Why, that's very strange!" the man replied. "He healed my eyes, and yet you don't know where he comes from? <sup>31</sup> We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear

those who worship him and do his will. <sup>32</sup> Ever since the world began, no one has been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he couldn't have done it."

<sup>34</sup> "You were born a total sinner!" they answered. "Are you trying to teach us?" And they threw him out of the synagogue.

<sup>35</sup> When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

<sup>36</sup> The man answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him."

<sup>37</sup> "You have seen him," Jesus said, "and he is speaking to you!"

<sup>38</sup> "Yes, Lord, I believe!" the man said. And he worshiped Jesus.

<sup>39</sup> Then Jesus told him, "I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind."

<sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, "Are you saying we're blind?"

<sup>41</sup> "If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty," Jesus replied. "But you remain guilty because you claim you can see."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SERMON:**

***"Seeking Sight"***

Pastor Andrea Cain  
*(Sat 5pm / Sunday Tempe)*

***"Here's to Mud in Your Eyes"***

Pastor Donald Legacie  
*(Gilbert)*

**SERMON SONG:** *"I Surrender" – (All Services)*

**Verse 1**

Here I am  
Down on my knees again  
Surrendering all  
Surrendering all

**Verse 2**

Find me here  
Lord as You draw me near  
Desperate for You  
Desperate for You  
I surrender

**Verse 3**

Drench my soul  
 As mercy and grace unfold  
 I hunger and thirst  
 I hunger and thirst

**Verse 4**

With arms stretched wide  
 I know You hear my cry  
 Speak to me now  
 Speak to me now

**Chorus**

I surrender  
 I surrender

I want to know You more  
 I want to know You more

**Bridge**

Like a rushing wind  
 Jesus breathe within  
 Lord have Your way  
 Lord have Your way in me  
 Like a mighty storm  
 Stir within my soul  
 Lord have Your way  
 Lord have Your way in me

CCLI Song # 6177317

Matt Crocker

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**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**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 greets our questions with patience,  
 a God who sends us out with hope in our step.  
 What wondrous love is this.  
 Amen.**

*written by rev. Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creating God, by your word you have made all things and called them good. Teach us to perceive the beauty of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve (especially). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## OFFERING:

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

In days of old, God was seen as far from the people. But we know Christ, and in him we know God. When we share what we have out of love, our hearts grow closer to God, and we shine with Christ's glory. Let us offer our gifts to God today.

*The Hunger Jar is an offering above and beyond regular offering designated for World Hunger.*

*You are invited to share your gifts in worship while others give electronically at [www.desertcross.org](http://www.desertcross.org) with the giving button, text giving, or by QR code. We give thanks for all the ways you support God's mission of outreach through Desert Cross that changes lives for the sake of the gospel.*

### OFFERING RESPONSE: "The Potter's Hand" – (All Services)

#### Verse 1

Beautiful Lord wonderful Saviour  
I know for sure all of my days are  
Held in Your hand crafted into  
Your perfect plan

#### Verse 2

You gently call me into Your presence  
Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit  
Teach me dear Lord to live all of my life  
Through Your eyes

#### Pre-Chorus

I'm captured by Your holy calling  
Set me apart I know You're drawing

Me to Yourself  
Lead me Lord I pray

#### Chorus

Take me mould me  
Use me fill me  
I give my life  
To the Potter's hand  
Call me guide me  
Lead me walk beside me  
I give my life  
To the Potter's hand

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**OFFERING PRAYER:**

God of good gifts,  
receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel.  
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal  
as you pour out your very presence  
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.  
**Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION:****CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.  
**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess to you our faults and failings.**  
**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**  
**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**  
**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**  
**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**  
**we choose fear over compassion.**  
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**  
**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**  
**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS:**

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

✝ forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Are you seeking? Come to the table of forgiveness, love, and new life and be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life and the heart of God.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying, this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

## **LORD'S PRAYER: ELW p.134**

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness. All are welcome!

## **INVITATION TO LAYING ON OF HANDS & HEALING PRAYER:** *(Gilbert only)*

In today's Gospel reading we heard the story of Jesus Healing the Man Born Blind. As we go through life, each of us may feel some need for the healing of body, mind, or spirit. In this Worship Service, we are offering the Laying on Of Hands and a Healing Prayer for anyone who wishes to receive it. After receiving Holy Communion, if you wish to do so, you may stop at a Prayer Station where you will receive the Laying on of Hands and A Healing Prayer.

### *THE HEALING PRAYER:*

*I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with grace, that you may know the healing power of his love. Amen.*

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:**

*Come forward to receive the bread and a cup of wine/juice. Alert an usher for communion in your seat. Children may commune or receive a blessing. All are welcome.*

## **DISTRIBUTION SONGS:**

*"Good Good Father" - (Sunday Tempe only)*

### **Verse 1**

I've heard a thousand stories  
Of what they think You're like  
But I've heard the tender whisper  
Of love in the dead of night  
You tell me that You're pleased  
And that I'm never alone

### **Chorus**

You're a Good Good Father  
It's who You are  
It's who You are  
It's who You are

And I'm loved by You

It's who I am

It's who I am

It's who I am

### **Verse 2**

I've seen many searching for answers  
Far and wide

But I know we're all searching for answers  
Only You provide

Because You know just what we need  
Before we say a word

### **Bridge**

You are perfect in all of Your ways  
You are perfect in all of Your ways  
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us

### **Verse 3**

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak  
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think  
As You call me deeper still

As You call me deeper still  
As You call me deeper still  
Into love love love

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Anthony Brown | Pat Barrett  
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### *“Remembrance” – (All Services)*

### **Verse 1**

Oh how could it be  
That my God would welcome me  
Into this mystery  
Say take this bread take this wine  
Now the simple made divine  
For any to receive

### **Verse 2**

See His body His blood  
Know that He has overcome  
Ev'ry trial we will face  
And none too lost to be saved  
None too broken or ashamed  
All are welcome in this place

### **Pre-Chorus**

By Your mercy we come to Your table  
By Your grace You are making us faithful

### **Bridge**

Dying You destroyed our death  
Rising You restored our life  
Lord Jesus come in glory  
Lord Jesus come in glory  
Lord Jesus come in glory  
Lord Jesus come in glory

### **Chorus**

Lord we remember You  
And remembrance leads us to worship  
And as we worship You  
Our worship leads to communion  
We respond to Your invitation  
(We respond to Your invitation)  
We remember You

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Matt Maher | Matt Redman  
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### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER:**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

Embodied God,  
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,  
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors  
and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.**

**BENEDICTION:**

As you leave this place,  
may God bless you with seeking.  
Seek out God in each of us.  
As you seek and as you wonder,  
may you find what you are looking for.  
In the name of our loving God, +  
who is always seeking us,  
go now in peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** *"Jesus Messiah" – (All Services)*

**Verse 1**

He became sin who knew no sin  
That we might become His righteousness  
He humbled Himself and carried the cross  
Love so amazing love so amazing

**Chorus**

Jesus Messiah Name above all names  
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel  
The Rescue for sinners  
The Ransom from heaven  
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

**Verse 2**

His body the bread His blood the wine  
Broken and poured out all for love  
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn  
Love so amazing love so amazing

**Bridge**

All our hope is in You  
All our hope is in You  
All the glory to You God  
The Light of the world

**Ending**

Jesus Messiah  
Lord of all  
The Lord of all  
The Lord of all

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**DISMISSAL:**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:**

<b>Thank you for supporting the Desert Cross mission. Here are the ways you can donate today:</b>		
<p><b>ONLINE GIVING:</b></p>  <p>Get your smart phone and scan the QR-code with your phone camera</p>	<p><b>SECURE TEXT GIVING:</b></p> <p>Text "GIVE" to 833-636-1502</p>	<p><b>USPS:</b></p> <p>8600 S. McClintock Drive Tempe, AZ 85284</p>

