

Today's Worship
March 6, 2022
First Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Rob Bruce

CALL TO WORSHIP

When Jesus was in the wilderness, he was tempted to save himself.

P: We often look for the good things for ourselves first, before the well-being of others.

L: Jesus was offered salvation if he turned stones to bread; if he accepted wealth and power; if he tested God's commitment to him.

P: In all these things, Jesus remained strong in his commitment to God.

L: May our commitment be as strong.

P: May our lives be placed in God's caring hands throughout our journey. AMEN.

MUSIC

God Is My Refuge
(See song sheet)

All

MUSIC

How Firm a Foundation

All

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word.
What more can he say than to you he hath said;
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled.

Fear not I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters he calls thee to go,
The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow.
For he will be with thee in trouble to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

OPENING PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The petitions are followed by:

ALL: "Lord in your mercy hear our prayers."

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

All

Our Father, which 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, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever.

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 4:1-13 (NRSV)

The Temptation of Jesus

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." 4 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.' "

5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." 8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10 for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'

11 and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

12 Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

13 When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

MUSIC

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
(See song sheet)

All

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Bruce

SERMON

The Characters of Lent: Satan

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 91

Leader and All

Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord,

**"My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."**

For the Lord will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence
and will cover you with his pinions;
**under the Lord's wings you will find refuge.
God's faithfulness is a shield and buckler.**

You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

**nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.**

A thousand my fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

**You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most high your habitation,
**no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.**

For God will give his angels charge over you
to guard you in all your ways.

**They will bear you up on their hands
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

**You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.**

Because they cleave to me in love, I will deliver them;
I will protect them, because they know my name.

When the call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.

**I will satisfy them with long life
and show them my salvation.**

THE EUCHARIST

CONFESSION

ABSOLUTION

THE INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minster: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people. When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC

Seek Ye First

All

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Man shall not live by bread alone,
By every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia!

(Repeat 1st verse)

DEPART TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The journey has begun. God is with you. Go forth to learn, to teach, to serve. Go bringing peace and hope to all in the name of Jesus Christ.

ALL: We go forth to Love Christ, Love People, and Help People Love Christ.

AMEN



Loving Christ Loving People Helping People Love Christ

Welcome! We're Glad You're Here!



We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, filthy rich, dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like our pastor who can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Methodist than Asbury, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion;" we've been there too.

If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts and you!

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