

February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

Before service speak silently to the Lord, during the service let the Lord speak powerfully to you.

## Service for the Worship of God



Our Mission is to be a  
community of disciples  
with a heart for God  
and hands to help others.

\* = All who are able please stand. **boldface** = Congregation participates

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION (written by Anne Osdieck)

Holy Spirit, take us to the desert. Speak straight to our hearts. Help us fast with Jesus. Smooth out our rough souls. Give us spiritual quiet, a quick and ready faith. God, our only nourishment, our energy, we want to come out, like Jesus, charged with yourself. Let this be. Amen.

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

arr. Hugh Livingston

## Gathering in the Lord's Presence

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As darkness gives way to light and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,

**People: We come today to be reminded of God's love for us.**

Leader: Like the green shoots of renewed life, stirring beneath the soil,

**People: We welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.**

Leader: In this time of reflection and repentance,

**People: We affirm our identity, we claim our security, as children of God.**

**All: Amen.**

HYMN #420

*Lord, to You My Soul is Lifted (Psalm 25)*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of rainforest and desert, mountains and valleys, plains and hills: Instead of following where you lead, at times we follow a tempter who shows us a vision of the world that is a mere shadow of what you desire for us. O God, when you have not answered in the ways or in the time we desire, we have been tempted to lean on our own understanding and not acknowledge you in all ways. We so often have sought to control our lives and order our own steps, often ignoring your wisdom and pushing your guidance aside. Lord, have mercy. Help us to trust you to journey with us and to guide us. Help us to grow in your promise to never leave us or forsake us. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God's grace through Jesus Christ is abundant: we are forgiven!

**People: Let us give thanks, and grow in the love of God. Amen**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### Hearing the Word

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

## RESPONSE:

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE: *Desert Growth*

### Responding to the Word

## HYMN #166

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

## OFFERING

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## DOXOLOGY

## JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## ***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

## *Going Forth to Serve*

BLESSING

**RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION:**

*You Shall Go Out With Joy*

### LEADING IN WORSHIP

Lauren Cochran, Pastor

Moy Family, Reader

Dylan Rehm, Chancel Choir & Handbell Director

Darlene Richards, Organ

Matt Parker Wrzeszcz, Associate Pastor