

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

March 6, 2022 10:00 AM

First Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *Largo* from Concerto in D minor Adam Peithmann
– Antonio Vivaldi/arr. J. S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

People: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

Leader: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

People: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Leader: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

People: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of our ancestors, we confess that we can become so obsessed with what we don't have and are blind to your steadfast presence in our lives. Hear our heart-felt prayers, see our brokenness, and forgive us. May we grow in our trust of you, rather than continuing to test you. Gather us up and bring us into the presence of Jesus Christ, our Servant and our Savior, that we might follow him to Jerusalem, and beyond - into that place of hope and peace you are giving to us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*OPENING HYMN NO. 249 *Spirit*

TIME TO WONDER *All Roads Lead to God* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Barbara Papagian

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT MEDITATION

OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

Karen Hawver

SERMON

Pausing on a Threshold

Rev. Carolyn Keilig

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*COMMUNION HYMN NO. 385 *An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare*

CALL TO COMMUNION AND COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF REMEMBERING AND PRAYER OF BLESSING

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

(a Deacon will invite you forward row by row; should you wish, a Deacon will bring Communion to you. When all have received the elements, we will eat and drink together)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Loving God, you have graciously fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

Throughout these days of Lent, may we show our gratitude and thanksgiving to you. Send us out into our neighborhoods and our world with the courage and strength to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 439 *God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: Now let us go from this place of haven God has given to us.

People: Led by the Spirit, we will go to be with those who are filled with fears, with hopes.

Leader: Now let us go from the refuge of the Table where we have tasted the first fruits of grace.

People: Led by the Spirit, we will go to feed those who hunger for companionship and life.

Leader: Now let us go into the world, living out God's reality that there is no distinction between people.

People: Led by the Spirit, let us go to serve our sisters and brothers who are our true family.

POSTLUDE

National Anthem of Ukraine – Mykhailo Verbytsky

The Call to Worship and the Benediction are from *Lectionary Liturgies* (c) Thom M. Shuman.

During these challenging times, we gratefully accept your financial offering to support Christ's mission in the heart of our city. Your gift may be left in any of the offering plates located at the exits.

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 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. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 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. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" 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, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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Manchester, New Hampshire
United Church of Christ

508 Union Street, Manchester, NH 603-625-5093
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

You are welcome here!

An Open & Affirming Congregation