



**commit your work to the LORD and
your plans will be established** *Proverbs 16:3*

INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, February 26, 2023



C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

Tate McGovern, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

Lent is “a time when we all get a minute to tell the truth:
Life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone.”

~ Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

~ **GATHERING** ~

LENTEN PRAYER (*from Celebrating Sabbath*)

Stop within the circle of time called Sabbath.

Set aside your responsibilities; they will wait.

Abide with the Lord of the Sabbath. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***LITANY FOR LENT**

For forty days and nights the rain fell,
and the waters covered the face of the earth

Lead us, O Lord, from death into life.

For forty years the people wandered,
seeking the land of God's promise.

Lead us, O Lord, from death into life.

Moses spent forty days on the mountain,
learning the commandments of God.

Lead us, O Lord, from death into life.

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness
to hear the voice of God in the silence.

Lead us, O Lord, from death into life.

Jonah cried out to the people of Nineveh:

Repent, or in forty days you will perish

Lead us, O Lord, from death into life.

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days
and was tested by the Accuser.

Lead us, O Lord, from death into life.

***HYMN** LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS GTG #166
by Claudia F.I. Hernaman ST. FLAVIAN

CHILDREN OF GOD

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

All: May God be with you there. **Kids:** May God be with you here.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, as we wander through this wilderness with Jesus, examining all the worldly comforts we turn to during times of stress and struggle, we confess the neglect of our faith. We confess all that we place above you, making idols of money, earthly power, and even food. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our spiritual practices so we can leave this wilderness season more aware of your presence and the ways our faith can sustain us. Amen. [*Silent Confession*]

***RESPONSE**

LAMB OF GOD

GTG #603

Trad. liturgical text

AGNUS DEI (Vasile)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Receive God's truth. Receive God's grace. Accept the freedom God provides. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

***INSTRUMENTAL**

~ THE WORD ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

HEBREW BIBLE

GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

(CEB)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.

Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

40: JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS

(YouTube)

Art by Simon Smith; Video by Adam Young

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 4:1-11

(NRSV)

SERMON

THE LENTEN WALK

~ **RESPONDING TO THE WORD** ~

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Adapted from the Confession of 1967*)

The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes the evil in people as sin in the sight of God. In sin, people claim mastery of their own lives, turn against God and each other, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation. But God's love never changes. Against all who oppose the divine will, God expresses love in wrath. In the same love, God bore judgment and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring all people to repentance and new life.

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

*RESPONSE	LORD, PREPARE ME	GTG #701
	by John Thompson and Randy Scruggs	SANCTUARY

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

~ **SENDING** ~

*HYMN	BE STILL, MY SOUL	GTG #819
	by Katharina von Schlegel	FINDLANDIA

***BENEDICTION**

*SENDING	GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN	GTG #541
	by Jeremiah Eames Rankin (RANDOLPH)	<i>Verse 1</i>

POSTLUDE

Pieces of today's liturgy are from: *Book of Common Worship* (PCUSA); *Call to Worship* from the Office of Theology and Worship; *Celebrating Sabbath* by Carol M. Bechtel; *Presbyterian Outlook*, Teri McDowell Ott

Cover Image: *Three Temptations*, by Cara B. Hochhalter