

PALGRAVE UNITED CHURCH

February 18, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sing a New Song.

The lighting of the Christ Candle

Introit

Welcome and Announcements.

Acknowledging the Land

Call to Worship

Forty days in the desert, Jesus was tempted to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful.

We come to remember what Jesus did when he faced the wilderness.

We journey with Jesus through the season of Lent, which brings us to face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.

We come to worship the God who walks with us through every challenge.

Let us worship our God, who gives us strength for every journey and courage for every test.

We will worship God and walk the journey together, seeking the spirit as our guide and companion along the way.

Hymn: Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights VU 108

Gathering Prayer

Temptation surrounds us at every turn, inviting us to take just a little more: More food, more money, more power, more privilege.

As we gather today in worship, O God, remind us that we do so in the name of the one who came not to get more but to give more: More love, more grace, more forgiveness, more courage, more strength, more hope.

In our singing, our praying and our sharing, may we celebrate the fact that we don't need to fight for more when we have everything in Christ, everything we need to live fully, love deeply and serve faithfully.

So nourish us with your word, O God, that we may be strong to resist temptation and be faithful in our worship of you.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Let us open our hearts and minds to the truth of our lives, and let us offer that truth to God.

Prayer of confession.

O God who loves us: hear our prayer.

So often, we come to you at a loss – at a loss for the right words,

the right actions, the right feelings.

We know all is not right.

There are too many who live in need and fear.

There are too many painful stories and not enough hopeful ones.

So we pray to you, our Creator and Redeemer, to make

things right and to make us right with you and each other. Turn us away from that which destroys and toward that which heals and brings joy. Hear us Loving God, as we continue our confession in silence.

Hymn: Forty Days and Forty Nights. VU 114

Scripture Reading: Psalm 25:1-10
Mark 1:9-15

Sermon: There's A Lot at stake.

Hymn: Jesus, Tempted in the Desert. VU 115

Prayer of Intercession and Thanksgiving.

Offering

Hymn: O God, How We Have Wandered. VU 112

Blessing and Benediction

Closing Chorus: May God's Sheltering Wings MV 214

May God's sheltering wings
God's gathering wings protect you
May God's nurturing arms,
God's cradling arms sustain you
And hold you in God's love,
And hold you in God's love