

FEBRUARY 21st, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: The season of Lent has begun. This is a time to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice Jesus Christ made on our behalf.

People: It is a time to remember how Jesus was sent by the Spirit into the wilderness, where he was tempted by Satan for forty days, and angels attended him.

Pastor: It is a time to wrestle with our own temptations and self-serving desires, and to pray for God to give us strength to resist them.

People: And it is a time to remember that when our spiritual struggles become more than we can handle, God will send spiritual and human angels to attend us.

Pastor: Let us worship the Lord.

HYMN #472 *I Would Be True*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Almighty God, you created us and gave us life, and you know us through and through, so you are aware of the many choices we constantly face. Every day we have to choose between right and wrong, between greater and lesser evils, and between what we want for ourselves and what other people need from us. We confess that those choices can be difficult, and sometimes we end up choosing wrongly. So we thank you for your mercy and forgiveness, and for the countless opportunities you give us to begin again and try to make better decisions next time. Dear Lord, bless us with your presence during this time of worship. As you sent angels to care for Jesus when he was tested in the wilderness, we ask you to send angels to care for us as well, so they can support our attempts to live in ways that are pleasing to you. We ask these things in the name of Jesus our Savior, who taught us to pray like this, saying...

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (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, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 25:1-10 and Mark 1:9-13

SERMON MESSAGE: *Cared for in the Wilderness* Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests
Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Generous God, during Jesus' forty days in the wilderness there were angels attending him, giving him the strength to remain faithful to you all the way to the cross. We also want to be faithful in loving, serving and obeying you to the very end. You have called us to be human angels for others by living lives of service, sacrifice and generosity, and that is why we give you our offerings. Bless and multiply them, dear Lord, and enable them to help care for those whose need is greater than ours. And when we are tempted to keep most of our treasure and time for our own benefit, send your angels to help deepen our devotion and love for you so that it is stronger than the devotion and love we have for ourselves. Amen.

HYMN #473 *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: As we leave this place of worship, let us acknowledge that it is not always easy to do God's will.

People: The instinct to live in a self-centered way is deeply ingrained in us and difficult to overcome.

Pastor: During this Lenten season, may we use the disciplines of prayer, self-sacrifice and immersing ourselves in God's Word to help deliver us from evil.

People: And may God send angels in various forms to attend us so we can resist the enticement to serve ourselves and serve the Lord instead.

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL