

**March 6, 2022 - First Sunday of Lent**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Lenten Liturgy** Written by Jen Dresser, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2016, page 67. Used with permission.

Jesus wandered in the wilderness and was tempted. In that wilderness, he encountered rock and stone. They are the landscape of a harsh environment. As we enter Lent, we intentionally enter the harsh environment of pain and suffering in our lives and in the world.

(rock is placed, candle is extinguished) The rock of temptation.

**May God's spirit walk with us.**

**Gathering In Song MV 90 "Don't Be Afraid"**

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised,  
promised to be always near.

**Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...**

**Call to Worship**

You call us, O God, to walk paths of righteousness;

**to sort out the priorities of our lives.**

You offer bread and drink to all who hunger and thirst for righteousness;

**our blessings overflow.**

Even when we go off on a tangent,

**You are with us; Your covenant never wavers.**

You watch over us as a hen watches over her chicks.

**We will sing your praises all the days of our lives.**

**Hymn VU 107 "Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes"**

Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes as another Lent begins;  
thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.

We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray;  
now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!

We have failed to love our neighbours, their offences to forgive,  
have not listened to their troubles, nor have cared just how they live;  
we are jealous, proud, impatient, loving overmuch our things;  
may the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offering.

We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need;  
and our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed;  
we have wasted earth's resources; want and suffering we've ignored;  
come and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts within us, Lord!

**Opening Prayer** (*unison*)

God of our ancestors and God of our descendants, as we start our annual pilgrimage toward Easter and resurrection we pass through this season of Lent and so begin the difficult task of self-examination, confession and repentance. Daily we face temptations, and, more often than not, we succumb to the lure of comfort, security, and control. Forgive us God. Remind us that our comfort comes at the expense of someone else's discomfort, our security comes at the expense of someone else's terror, our control comes at the expense of someone else's powerlessness. Help us find the path where all have enough, all have justice, and all acknowledge your authority. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

## **We Ask God's Blessing**

**Anthem:** "Forty Days and Forty Nights" performed by the choir of St. Michael and All Angels, Bassett  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeAoZQ8N\\_LM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeAoZQ8N_LM)

**Time for the Young and the Young @** 

**Hymn VU 115** "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert

Jesus, tempted in the desert, lonely, hungry, filled with dread:  
'Use your power,' the tempter tells him; 'turn these barren rocks to bread!'  
'Not alone by bread,' he answers, 'can the human heart be filled.  
Only by the Word that calls us is our deepest hunger stilled!'

Jesus, tempted at the temple, high above its ancient wall:  
'Throw yourself from lofty turret; angels wait to break your fall!'  
Jesus shuns such empty marvels, feats that fickle crowds request:  
'God, whose grace protects, preserves us, we must never vainly test.'

Jesus, tempted on the mountain by the lure of vast domain:  
'Fall before me! Be my servant! Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!'  
Jesus sees the dazzling vision, turns his eyes another way:  
'God alone deserves our homage! God alone will I obey!'

When we face temptation's power, lonely, struggling, filled with dread,  
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour, come and be our living bread.  
By your grace, protect, preserve us lest we fall, your trust betray.  
Yours, above all other voices, be the Word we hear, obey.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

Jesus, vulnerable and alone in the desert you faced the force of evil and withstood temptation.  
Be with us in our struggles and temptations, that by your strength we may reject evil  
in whatever form it comes.

Jesus, you cleared the temple courts, making it a place of God once again. Send your Holy Spirit to  
sweep through your church, that once again it may be your instrument of holiness and righteousness  
in the world. Especially we pray this week for Komoka United Church.

Jesus, you wept over the state of Israel,  
Be with our cities, our towns, and our villages. This week, we think especially of the people of Ireland,  
the United Kingdom of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, and Ukraine.

Jesus, you wept alone at Gethsemane,  
Be with all who feel alone, all who face difficult decisions.  
Jesus, you wept, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"  
Be with all who feel forsaken by you;

Jesus, you wept over the death of Lazarus,  
Be with all who grieve: especially the friends and families of Jane Smith and Alexis Statham  
Jesus, you cured the lepers and the lame, restored sight to the blind, and cast out demons from the  
demon possessed, be with the ill and dying, those awaiting medical intervention and those recovering  
from treatment, especially we pray for Mac Toner..... and their friends and loved ones and caregivers,  
and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

Jesus, you offered up prayers with loud cries and tears,  
Hear our prayers, as we pray the words you taught us, saying,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

Now is the time for offering up that which matters.  
Now is the time for giving of yourself.  
Now is the time for the healing of the nations.  
Now is the time for good gifts of love.  
Now is the time your tithes and offerings will be received.

### **Offertory Hymn VU 542 "We Give You But Your Own"**

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

### **Offering Prayer**

Holy One, accept and bless these offerings. Use them to feed the refugees,  
the homeless, and the working poor in our land and around the world. Bless your people,  
and this land in which we live, a land rich in abundance. Amen.

## **We Listen For God's Word**

### **Scripture: 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.

**Psalm 91 VU 808 "On Eagle's Wings"**

You who dwell in the shelter of our God,  
who abide in this shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: 'My refuge,  
my Rock in whom I trust.'

'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear:  
under God's wings your refuge,  
God's faithfulness your shield.

'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'

You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though thousands fall about you,  
near you it shall not come.

'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'

For to God's angels is given a command  
to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'

'And hold you, hold you in the palm of my hand.'

*The other readings for this week are: **Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13.** You can look them up on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) and search for the passage.....in any translation you prefer (ie. King James - KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)*

**Meditation:** "Journeys"

**We Depart With God's Blessing**

**Hymn VU 641 "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"**

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey,  
I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go:  
for our life and our peace and our love is yourself.  
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.  
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.  
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant  
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears,  
for you saved me by giving your body and blood.  
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey,  
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side;  
and with all of my brothers you saved by your love,  
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

The Israelites journeyed 40 years through the wilderness  
and were led by God into the land God promised their ancestor Abram,  
a land flowing with milk and honey.

**Our Lenten journey of 40 days of reflection and discernment has begun.**

**May God's Holy Spirit lead us to new, deeper, richer spiritual lives and ministries.**

Go and may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit go with us all.

**May it be so.**

Amen.

**Sung Response: VU 961 "Let Us, O God, Depart in Peace"**

Let us, O God, depart in peace, who in your name are gathered here.  
Disclose the brightness of your face, and be forever near.

### **Announcements.....**

#### **ALL:**

Daylight Savings Time starts next Sunday, March 13 at 0200 hours.  
Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead when you go to bed Saturday night.

#### **Union:**

**March Outreach:** St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank suggestions: canned brown beans, pasta sauce and dry noodles, canned chili, stew, soups, jam and peanut butter. You may deposit these items in the box at the back of the sanctuary, or send a monetary donation to St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank, P. O. Box 20025, St. Thomas, ON, N5P 2X3

The Broadview subscription renewal for Union is due mid-March. If you wish to be included or deleted from the subscription list, please let Roberta know.

#### **Dorchester:**

**Lectionary Readings for next week:** (February 13, Second of Lent)

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 OR Luke 9:28-36