

DOXOLOGY (Use whatever words are comfortable for you)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost). Amen.

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING and DEDICATION

Jesus resisted the tempter's lies of scarcity by remembering we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. What are some of these nourishing words to which we can dedicate our offerings? To these sacred stories, this holy work, these blessed words, we dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Amen.

***SONG "God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"**

#439

BENEDICTION

SUNG "Amen" (feel free to clap along!)

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able.

Bold- Words in bold are said in unison.

Our worship has ended ~ Let our service begin!

Warm Birthday wishes go out to:

Laura Facendola Golas Feb. 5th

Janet Lamy Feb. 10th

Jon Sidney Sawyer Feb. 13th

Natalie Burgos Feb. 17th

Bob McTague Feb. 24th

Laraine Amelotte Feb. 8th

Sydney Furman Feb. 13th

Jackie Wuth Feb. 16th

Justin O'Toole Feb. 22nd

Chrissy Dobeck Feb. 27th

Happy Anniversary wishes go out to:

Heidi & Eric Furman February 26th

Led by the Spirit...Backed by the Word: Service Prayers for the Lent 1A was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema who serves as a free-range facilitator, ritualist, activist, teacher, and writer whose work lives at the intersections of race, gender, sexuality and embodied spiritual practices. She is a founding member of the Liberating Lineages Collective.

For all joys and concerns mentioned in the Pastor's Tuesday email.

Remember in your prayers our special members: June and Edie K.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CLINTON

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The United Church of Clinton



February 22, 2026

Pastor, Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musician, Kate Lyczkowski

Lay Reader, Tim Reilly

Ministers, The People of God

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

First Sunday of Lent

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING *of the BELL/TIME of CENTER*

*CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: Then the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

Assembly: Come, beloved, into the wilderness of our heartbreaking and troubled days.

Leader: In the midst of our hunger for comfort, provoked by lies of scarcity,

Assembly: this Lent journey promises bread and abundance.

Leader: In the midst of our longing for safety, enticed by promises of security,

Assembly: this Lent journey promises angels and costly solidarity.

Leader: In the midst of our clinging to power, lured by the ease of complicity,

Assembly: this Lent journey promises prayer and turning around.

Leader: The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

Assembly: Come, beloveds, to worship, venturing deeper and deeper into the wilderness of our broken and beautiful world.

*SONG of PRAISE *and* SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE

"Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley"

#211

*PRAYER *of the DAY*

In the wilderness and the wandering and the weariness, lead us, Holy Spirit. In the hungering and the holding and the humbling, accompany us, Holy Spirit. In the tempting and the testing and the turning, move us, Holy Spirit. In the resisting and the refusing and the recognizing, guide us, Holy Spirit. Ground us, as we ground in you. Breathe with us, as we breathe with you. Turn with us, as we turn toward you. As the new way emerges, we pray. Amen.

*AFFIRMING *and* CONNECTING (Passing of the Peace) We sing: "Peace be with You"

Twice.

* GLORIA PATRI

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. Amen. *(Be seated)*

Moment for All God's Children

Lord's Prayer 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 and ever. Amen.

*SONG "It is Well With My Soul"

#561

SCRIPTURE Psalm 32: 6-11 (Common English Version)

PRAYER *of* TRANSFORMATION *and* NEW LIFE

Call to Turning Around. Our worship today invites us to dwell with the story of Jesus' 40-day journey in the wilderness struggling with demons, one of the origin stories for the Christian season of Lent. In this story, the tempter or the devil uses scripture to try and provoke Jesus into going against his calling to embody radical love. Throughout history, many have used Christian sacred texts to justify and provoke unChristian actions, from the genocide of Indigenous peoples and the enslaving of people of African descent, to the oppression of queer and trans folks and the demonizing of immigrants and refugees. So in this moment, as we seek transformation and new life, as we practice repentance or turning around, let us nurture accountability for the ways we and others have used our scriptures for unloving and unjust ends. (Time of Silence)

WORDS OF GRACE AND ASSURANCE

Prayer Concerns and Joys Lifted Up

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Matthew 4: 1-11 (Common English Version)

Meditation - Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musical Meditation

INVITATION *to* GENEROSITY

Passing of the Plate

First Scripture Psalm 32: 6-11 CEB

6 That's why all the faithful should pray to you during troubled times,^[b]
so that a great flood of water won't reach them. **7** You are my secret hideout!
You protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of rescue! Selah **8** I will instruct you
and teach you about the direction you should go. I'll advise you and keep my eye on you. **9** Don't
be like some senseless horse or mule, whose movement must be controlled with a bit and a
bridle.^[c] Don't be anything like that!^[d] **10** The pain of the wicked is severe, but faithful love
surrounds the one who trusts the LORD. **11** You who are righteous, rejoice in the LORD and be glad!
All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!

Second Scripture Matthew 4: 1-11 CEB

Temptation of Jesus 4 Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might
tempt him. 2 After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. 3 The tempter
came to him and said, "Since you are God's Son, command these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus
replied, "It's written, *People won't live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.*"^[a] 5 After
that the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He
said to him, 6 "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, *I will command my
angels concerning you, and they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a
stone.*"^[b] 7 Jesus replied, "Again it's written, *Don't test the Lord your God.*"^[c] 8 Then the devil
brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their
glory. 9 He said, "I'll give you all these if you bow down and worship me." 10 Jesus responded, "Go
away, Satan, because it's written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*"^[d] 11
The devil left him, and angels came and took care of him.

