

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering: – *Discipleship Ministries*

Generous God, as we remember Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, we acknowledge the temptation that pursues so many of us: to measure our worth, our power and our security by what we have. As we offer these gifts to you this morning, we pray that you might deliver us from the temptation of building our lives around what belongs to us. Continually lead us to the conviction that what matters is that we belong to you. We pray in the name of our Savior and Redeemer. **Amen.**

Offertory Anthem: "Jesus walked this lonesome Valley" Spiritual arr. by Nancy Wertsch
Text may be found at TFWS# 2112

Doxology UMH #94

Prayer of Thanksgiving: – *Ministry Matters*

Merciful One, we do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from your mouth. Still, we seek your blessing upon this offering, for many are hungry and need food, many are naked and need clothes, many are homeless and need shelter. May these gifts reflect the depth of our gratitude as they go into the world. In Jesus's name, we pray. **Amen.**

***Hymn:** "Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessings" UMH# 671

Benediction

Postlude: "Prelude in C Major" Johann Krebs (1713-1780)

The prelude this morning is a work by J. S. Bach. Bach highly embellishes the choral tune, which can be heard on a solo organ stop. His use of ornamentation, tempo and compositional style make this an emotional setting of the tune. It is when Bach expresses grief or sadness that he achieves sublime beauty. The postlude was composed by a student of Bach, Johann Krebs.

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Acolytes: Audrey Crawford, Meriel Everett, Anthony or Nicholas Skridulas

Altar Ministry: Vera Baker and Shonali Bhajjan

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Fellowship Hour: The Stewardship & Finance Committee and volunteers

Liturgist: Thomas Sheldon

Ushers: Head Usher, Lisa Bakowski; Asst. Head Usher, Sheila Womble, Kathy Hathaway, Margo Sweetland, Ann Guyotte, JoAnne Evans

Video Team: Brian and Samuel Crawford, Eric Mazzarella, Nic Odell, Anthony and Nicholas Skridulas

Please Pray for: Bridget B, James B, Janet B, Meri B, Natalie B, Mary C, Pat D, David F, Mark F, Donna G, Courtney H, Pete L, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, Diane M, Carlos M, Les P, Rev. Dr. Bob P, Catherine Ann R, Jen R, Carl S, Lynn T, Allie W, our service members and their loved ones, those affected by gun violence and natural disasters.

Trinity United Methodist Church

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Bishop, Thomas J. Bickerton

District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe

Minister, Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Bruce Glenn

Director of Family Ministries & Connections, Rob Powell, M.Div

Spiritual Director, Cathy MacGovern



Believing that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth, that Jesus' message was one of inclusion of those rejected by mainstream society, and that each member makes inherent and valuable contributions to the Body of Christ, we of Trinity Church welcome into this congregation people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability.



Celebrate God's love

Nurture relationships with God and one another

Serve our community and world, as we share the light of Christ

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

10:30 a.m.

WELCOME

We worship using this liturgy and two songbooks: The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH) and The Faith We Sing (TFWS). Please silence your electronic devices. Nursery care is downstairs for children birth - 4 years.

Please stand in body or in spirit. **Items in bold are read in unison. Items italicized are sung by the choir.*

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE FOR A TIME OF QUIET MEDITATION

“Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because God wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store.” – N.T. Wright

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: O Mensch, bewein' dein Sunde gross “O People, Bewail Thy Grievous Sin” J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Introit: “Blessed Lamb, On Calvary's Mountain”

Blessed Lamb, On Calvary's Mountain slane to take our sins away. Let the drops of that rich fountain our tremendous ransom pay. Great Redeemer, great Redeemer, may we ever praise Thy name. Blessed Lamb, On Calvary's Mountain, may we ever praise Thy name.

***Call to Worship:** – Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts, August 2022.

One: Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

Many: We are learning to follow Jesus.

One: For those who feel Christ near,

Many: May we not turn away from the discomfort of the journey ahead.

One: For those who feel as far from Christ as the desert is from the ocean,

Many: May we find Christ in the wilderness with us.

One: For all of us who stumble and fall in our silence, indifference, and lack of generosity,

Many: May we reach for the hand of Christ, who raises us up to continue on the journey.

One: Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

Many: We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! Amen.

***Hymn:** “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” UMH# 269

***Unison Prayer of Confession:** - Abington Worship Manual 2023

God of wilderness wanderings, many things tempt us; many forces cause our feet to stray. Save us from the time of trial, for we easily succumb to temptation; we often heed voices that cause us to stray. Return us to the garden of your abiding love, for we yearn to walk with you with faithful hearts and upright spirits. Amen.

***Words of Assurance:** – Abington Worship Manual 2023

We worship the one who forgives our transgressions and covers our sin. Rejoice and be glad, for God's mercy is greater than our failings; God's grace is greater than our sin. **Amen.**

***Response:** “Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley” Spiritual arr. by Nancy Wertsch TFWS #2112

1. Jesus walked this lonesome valley; he had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him; he had to walk it by himself.
2. We must walk this lonesome valley; we have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us; we have to walk it by ourselves.
3. You must go and stand your trial; you have to stand it by yourself.
Oh, nobody else can stand it for you; you have to stand it by yourself.

Choir Anthem: “Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies' Sake” Richard Farrant (1525-1580)

*Lord, for Thy tender mercies' sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past,
and give us grace to amend our sinful lives, to decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk with a perfect heart, before Thee now and evermore.*

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Children's Moment

Pastoral Prayer, Joys and Concerns

The 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Choral Response: “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

I want Jesus, O Lord, to walk with me. All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

***Hymn:** “Jesus Tempted in the Desert” TFWS# 2105
(5-13 yr. olds are invited to Grace Chapel for Chapel Kids. Parents please escort your children & pick them up.)

Old Testament Scripture Reading: Genesis 9: 8-17 (NRSV) p. 7

New Testament Scripture Reading: Matthew 4: 1-11 (NRSV) p. 3

Response to the Word:

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “The Temptation of Jesus” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun