

# *First Sunday in Lent*

March 6, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey  
*(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)*

Call to Worship "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus" Choir  
Greeting 6

\*Hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" 139

Opening Prayer 6  
*(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided.)*

Prayer for Illumination 6

Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Pages 178-179 (O.T.)  
Psalter Psalm 91 810-811

\*Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" 117

New Testament Reading Romans 10:8b-13 Page 151 (N.T.)  
Gospel Reading Luke 4:1-13 Pages 60-61 (N.T.)  
Sermon "Resisting Temptations" Rev. John D. Jordan

Response to the Word "The Apostles' Creed" 7

Invitation 7

Confession and Pardon 8

Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" Dan Greshel

\*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

Thanksgiving and Communion 9-11

\*Hymn "Take Time to Be Holy" 395

\*Dismissal With Benediction

\*Benediction Response "Psalm 147" Choir

\*Postlude Christopher A. McCroskey

\*The Congregation May Stand

# *Leading in Worship Today*

Pastor: John D. Jordan Time Together: Mary Louise Robinson  
Choir Director: Christopher A. McCroskey AV Director: Marie Stiles  
Church Musician AV Assistant: Chris Derrick

**VISITORS ARE WELCOME** in the service of worship! Please make use of the visitor's tags (located in the pew backs) to help us better welcome you as a visitor to Trinity this morning. We ask that you also please fill in the pew pad as it passes to register your attendance with us. **Large print hymnals** are available from the ushers.

You may join as a member into the life and work of this congregation by Confession of Faith or by Transfer of Membership from another church. If you would be interested in becoming a member, please speak to the pastor.

**TODAY'S LOVELY FLOWERS** are given to the **Glory of God.**

**“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS ...**

Jackie McNeill	Boots Morgan	Bill Perarson	Patsy Zeigler	Dale Wells	Charles McNeill
Jimmy Grahl	Oren Edwards	Latson Lewis	Irvin Wells	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler
George Taylor	Jimmy Grahl	Kay Jordan	Becky Derrick	John Ballentine	

**Shut-Ins:** Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Nell Cooke; Carolyn Hardee; Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Irvin Wells

**Family and Friends:** **Stacy Coggins** (daughter of Steve Aiello); **Dan & Leslie White** (brother & sister-in-law of Steve White); **Dolly Orth** (mother-in-law of Allison Frady Orth); **Sydney** (girlfriend of friend of Marty Johnson); **Alva Humphries** (friend of Marty Johnson); **Neal Hart** (uncle of Dee Senn); **Bill Arheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **Jane & Bob Bryant** (sister and brother-in-law of Patsy Zeigler); **Chal Whitaker** (brother-in-law of Edwa Meek); **Max Nova** (son of friend of Edwa Meek); **Addie Kinard** (cousin of coworker of Edwa Meek); **Stuart & Penny Lloyd** (son & daughter-in-law of Tom & Marilyn Lloyd); **Cindy Ellenberg** (friend of Ray Frady); **Megan Corby** (daughter of Carlis Edwards); **Chip Hooker** (Wayne Hooker's father); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **Dino & Wanda Moore** (friend of Tommy Gleaton); **Gary Becton** (friend of Mark Branham); **Wade Albert Payne** (friend of Mary Louise Robinson); **Audrey Cassady** (sister-in-law of Mary Louise Robinson); **Monnie Tiller** (friend of Chris Derrick); **Betty Jean Newton** (sister-in-law of Mary Kamoroff); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Alexa Lookingbill** (wife of coworker of Kathy White); **Katelyn Rose** (daughter of co-worker of Kathy White); **Vickie Edwards** (neighbor of Kathy White); **Ty Moore, George Dorn** (friends of Kay Jordan); **Teddy Derrick** (uncle of Arvan Derrick); **Haidee Baehr** (friends of Ruth Frady); **Dianne Schmotzer** (sister-in-law of Gale Frady); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (cousins of Gale Frady); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (friends of Gale Frady); **Ray Culbreth's Group House**; **Nellie Gantt** (mother of friend of Ray Culbreth); **Amelia Zinski** (great-niece of Linda Maloch); **Wayne Blair** (son of Dot Johnson); **Xavier Crane** (grandnephew of John Ballentine); **Walt & Janet Beck** (friends of Jo Ann Heiting); **Jeff DuBrul** (son-in-law of Walt and Janet Beck); **Adam Lavender** (son of Phil Lavender)

If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at [trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com).

**OUR PRESENCE ...**

Attendance 02/27 SS: 10 Worship: 20

**OUR GIFTS ...**

General Fund 02/27 \$ 6,073.39

**OUR SERVICE...**

**OUR WITNESS.”**

**Church Calendar**

**TODAY** Lunch Bunch

**03/09** Wonderful Wednesday Meal, 5:30 p.m.

Devotional, 6:15 p.m.



**Ministers**

**Pastor**

**Resident Bishop**

**District Superintendent**

**The Congregation**

**John D. Jordan**

**Jonathan Holston**

**Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson**

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**Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

**Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform**



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**Wonderful Wednesday**  
**March 9**  
**5:30 p.m.**

Wonderful Wednesday will be held on March 9. The meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. and a devotional will begin at 6:15 p.m. The meal will be prepared by John and Sue Ballentine:

Homemade Chicken Pot Pie  
Pasta Salad  
Dessert

Reservations will be in the bulletin on Sunday, March 6, or you can call the Church Office by noon on Monday, March 7.



**Wesley Class Meeting**  
**Begins Wednesday, March 16**  
**7 p.m.**

We will begin a Wesley Class Meeting on Wednesday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be using Kevin M. Watson's book *The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten Small Group Experience* as a starting point for the first eight weeks then will continue from there. If you are interested but unable to come at that time do not lose heart. After the first eight weeks, we will split into two groups. Tom Geddens and Pastor John will be leading the groups initially. We hope that the groups will continue to grow and multiply. Membership in the groups is not limited to Trinity members but anyone who seeks to grow in holiness and love with God.



**Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13.** Don't forget to move your clocks forward one hour.



**Begins Sunday, April 10**

We will be having Holy Week Services this year after a two-year hiatus. The Services will be Sunday night at Mt Hebron, Monday at Platt Springs, Tuesday at Trinity, and Wednesday at Cayce. The Services will also be live-streamed on each church's platform. More details to come.

Temptations. We are bombarded by them every day. Some may be big, like cheating on our taxes. Others may seem small, like skipping prayer time because we overslept. We are tempted in many ways. Many temptations may be hard to resist, while others may be quite easy.

We are all tempted. Yes, that is me, your pastor, entering the Mt of Temptation Restaurant in Jericho. Even Jesus was tempted as we read today.

According to Luke, Jesus was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. The belief at the time was that the wilderness was the place where demons dwelt. This mirrors the ongoing conflict between the reign of Satan and the reign of God, a theme throughout Luke's gospel. Jesus was led into the wilderness to do battle with the devil. For forty days, Jesus struggled with the devil.

Now we come to the final temptations, the culmination of the conflict. Jesus had eaten nothing during this time and was in his most vulnerable condition. The temptations represent conflicts over the use of power, who has authority and is to be worshipped, and faith.

The devil notes that Jesus is famished. He has not eaten in forty days. There are no Food Lions or Circle Ks in the wilderness. So, the devil suggests that Jesus turn a stone into a loaf of bread. I imagine the devil saying, " Jesus, we've been fighting for forty days. You haven't eaten during this time. If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Now the devil is not demanding proof that Jesus is the Son of God. He is reminding Jesus that as he is the Son of God he has the power to turn a stone into a loaf of bread. He is telling Jesus to use his divine power for his own needs.

Jesus responds by quoting a portion of Deuteronomy 8:3, "One does not live by bread alone." Jesus' response implies that, while Jesus can and will meet the physical needs of others, his divine power is also to be used to meet other needs: spiritual, emotional, and physical. Jesus is to bring complete wholeness to the world and his divine power is not to be used to meet his own physical needs. In the reign of God, power is used for the benefit of all people, while in the reign of Satan, power is used for self-interest.

In the second temptation, the devil shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. The devil claims that he has authority over all the kingdoms. The devil tells Jesus to worship him and all the kingdoms of the earth would be his.

There are two points in this temptation. One is who to worship. In response, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:13, "Worship the Lord your God and serve only him...", a pretty straightforward answer. It is straightforward in that the devil has no true authority over the world. God is the one who created the earth and therefore has true authority over the earth. The Son of Man, Jesus, will be given authority over the kingdoms but that authority will come from God, not the devil.

Finally, the devil takes Jesus to the highest point of the Temple. He tells Jesus to throw himself off because angels will come and bear him up so that his foot is not dashed against the stone. The devil is quoting Psalm 91:11-12. The temptation is to put God to the test. Let's see if God is going to keep his promises.

Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:16, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” In the greater context, this verse is the beginning of a reminder that the Lord had promised the land to the Israelites. The response Jesus is giving to the devil is that he does not have to put God to the test because he knows God will keep his promises.

Then the devil leaves Jesus until an opportune time.

That is not the end of the conflict between the reign of God and the reign of Satan. The conflict did not end with the resurrection of Jesus, but that was the beginning of the end. That is where we are now, the setting of the reign of Satan and the rising of the reign of God that began with Jesus. As we live in the reign of God we are to resist the temptations of the reign of Satan.

We are to resist putting God to the test. We are to resist giving the authority of God over to Satan. We are to resist the temptation to worship other “gods”. We are to resist using our power and resources for self-interest. We are to resist temptations as Jesus did so we do not fall into the reign of Satan over the reign of God.

You may ask, “How can I resist the devil as Jesus did? Jesus was the divine Son of God, I am only human.” Remember, though Jesus was divine, he was also human. His humanity is evident in the temptation story. The devil is tempting the very human Jesus in the same way he tempts us. Jesus gives us a model in this story.

First, have faith. Have trust and confidence that God will keep his promises. God kept his promise to Jesus even though it led to death upon a cross. Jesus died but Jesus was raised from the dead fulfilling the promise of eternal life. We do not need to test God as we have faith in God.

Secondly, worship God alone. God is the creator. God is the promise keeper. Only God is worthy of worship. Keep the Great Commandment to love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. Nothing we can worship can give us life, except God.

Thirdly, use your gifts, talents, and resources for the benefit of others and not exclusively for self-interest. We work to meet the physical needs of others, but also emotional and spiritual needs. Thus we work for complete wholeness for all people and ourselves.

When Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3, “one does not live by bread alone” he did not include the second part, “but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.” We gain the strength to resist temptations by reading God’s word, listening for God speaking to us, and working on our relationship with God. We strive to draw closer to God every day.

Jesus did not go out into the wilderness alone. He was “full of the Holy Spirit”. He was attuned with the Spirit of God which was with him and in him. This same Spirit is with and in us, giving us the insight to recognize temptations and the power to resist.

We stay attuned to the Spirit in our daily prayer life, taking time to talk with and listen to God. We stay attuned to the Spirit by Bible Study, individually and communally. We stay attuned to the Spirit by communal worship as a body. We stay attuned to the Spirit through the sacraments. By the partaking of the bread and wine we are made one with Christ, each other, and in ministry to all the world. We stay attuned to the Spirit by serving others as God calls us to serve.

We resist temptation and the reign of Satan by staying attuned to and filled with the Holy Spirit. We resist temptation by listening to God speaking to us, guiding us, drawing us to divine love. We resist temptation by worshipping God alone. We resist temptation by using our resources for the benefit of others. We resist temptation by having faith, complete trust, and confidence in the One who keeps all promises.

As we resist the reign of Satan, the reign of Satan will fall and the reign of God will rise to become the rule of creation.