

**1ST SUNDAY IN LENT
GATHER IN GOD’S NAME**

(*=**please stand if you are able**)

Prelude (A time for Silence and Reflection)

Welcome

Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

Opening Prayer

L: For forty days and forty nights

P: our Savior fasted in the wilderness..

L: Tempted to turn from God, tempted to turn to power and privilege

P: our Savior resisted.

L: Let us follow Jesus through the wilderness this Lent, examining our temptations, resisting them and returning to God.

P: Let us worship God.

Hymn of the Month GTG# 749

“Come! Live in the Light!” (Verses 1, 3)

Call to Confession

We pause here to examine our lives, our temptations and the ways we have fallen short before our God. Let us confess our sins together.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, as we wander through this wilderness with Jesus, examining all the worldly comforts we turn to during times of stress and struggle, we confess the neglect of our faith. We confess all that we place above you, making idols of money, earthly power, and even food. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our spiritual practices so we can leave this wilderness season more aware of your presence and the ways our faith can sustain us. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of pardon

Remember and receive these hopeful words from John 8:32, “If you continue in my word, you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” Receive God’s truth. Receive God’s grace. Accept the freedom God provides. Amen

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

***Gloria Patri**

“Glorify Thy Name”

Father, we love You, we worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Prayer for illumination

God of grace, help us seek you and the message you intend for us today. Let us not be distracted by worldly pursuits or pleasures. Help us to focus our hearts and minds on you and your Word read and proclaimed today. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 4: 2b-7

Abel cared for the flocks, and Cain farmed the fertile land. Some time later, Cain presented an offering to the Lord from the land’s crops while Abel presented his flock’s oldest offspring with their fat. The Lord looked favorably on Abel and his sacrifice but didn’t look favorably on Cain and his sacrifice. Cain became very angry and looked resentful. The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why do you look so resentful? If you do the right thing, won’t you be accepted? But if you don’t do the right thing, sin will be waiting at the door ready to strike! It will entice you, but you must rule over it.”

L: This is the word God. **P: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem:

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 4:1-11

Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. The tempter came to him and said, “Since you are God’s Son, command these stones to become bread.” Jesus replied, “It’s written, *People won’t live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.*” After that the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, “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.*” Jesus replied, “Again it’s written, *Don’t test the Lord your God.*” Then the devil brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. He said, “I’ll give you all these if you bow down and worship me.” Jesus responded, “Go away, Satan, because it’s written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*” The devil left him, and angels came and took care of him.

L: This is the word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“We Are Here to Guide”

Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

Art Activity: Building blocks to create a door. Everybody will put one

Hymn GTG#649

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Words of Gratitude

God calls us to lives of grateful generosity. Let us praise the Giver of all good gifts through our offering today.

Offertory

RESPOND IN GRACE

“Thank you Jesus”

Thank you Thank you Jesus

Thank you Thank you Jesus in my heart

Thank you Thank you Jesus

Thank you Thank you Jesus in my heart

*** Doxology**

“Sithi Bonga (We Sing Praise)”

Sithi bonga bonga bonga bonga sithi bonga sithi bonga,
sithi bonga bonga bonga bonga; enhle hlabele
sithi bonga bonga bonga sithi bonga sithi bonga
sithi bonga bonga sithi bonga enhle hlabelela.

Prayer of Dedication

God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ’s ministry and mission among the poor, the despairing and the destitute. Amen.

Prayers of the People (See backpage)

***Lord’s Prayer**

Hymn GTG# 39

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Announcements

Benediction

God is Good! All the time! All the Time! God is Good!

Beloved people of God; I invite you, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by meditating on Gods’ word. May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

The Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

People: And also with you

Amen

Postlude

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Prayers of the People

Eternal God, as we begin this Lenten journey with Jesus in the wilderness, our struggles and temptations become all too real. Emptying ourselves of that which teases and tempts us to turn from you and turn toward idols of comfort that don't satisfy and don't last, we pray for you to open us to your truth and guide us in Christ's path.

All too often, God, we choose the path that is known, the path that is comfortable. This Lent, let us pause to look around, discern where we are and how we got here. Is our position faithful? Do we need to redirect? What can we learn from where we have been? What new path might we need to forge to be more faithful in the future? What assumptions need to be let go? What truth do we need to steel ourselves to face? God, help us with our Lenten reckoning. We are in the wilderness, and we desperately need you as our guide.

All too often, God, we prioritize our comfort and our convenience over the struggles and suffering of others. Hear our desire to change, O God. Help us be deliberate in our actions and thoughtful in our choices. Help us ask ourselves the hard questions before we take action. Who will our actions impact? Who might we unintentionally harm? What voices have we not heard from? Who have we not yet considered? God, help us with our Lenten reckoning. We are in the wilderness, and we desperately need you as our guide.

Finally, Holy God, in this moment of prayer we pause now to de-center ourselves and our needs to focus on the needs of others. Hear our prayers and pleas on behalf of your people.

We pray for those who are fleeing violence, those who are grieving death and deep loss, those who are sick and their caregivers; those seeking healing from trauma; the victims of sexual, emotional, and physical abuse; the victims of hate, of racism, xenophobia and transphobia. We pray for refugees and asylum seekers. We pray for world leaders seeking to resolve conflict through non-violence and diplomacy. We pray for the idols of money, power, and privilege to be brought down in favor of love and justice and equity. We pray for those fighting for life after a natural disaster.

In your mercy, O God, hear the prayers of your people. Help us walk with you during this Lenten season, so we can learn and grow in your embrace. Help us follow in the footsteps of our Savior, who calls on us to pray as he prayed, "Our Father..."

Church Officers

At last week's congregational meeting we elected new Deacons and Elders. These are our officers now.

Session		
2024	2025	2026
Rich Ellison	Tom Clemmens	Kofi Boateng
Bob Supina		Duna Fullerton
Deacons		
2024	2025	2026
Lisa Clemmens		Susan Caretta
Nancy McIntyre		Julie Njie
Jonathan Oh		



PASTOR
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ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
Lindsay Wilkens
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SEXTON
Robert Holmes

MINISTERS
All the Members

"A multicultural congregation worshipping together where Jesus Christ is Lord; where men, women, and children share in leadership; and where the strength of our fellowship builds bridges to the community."

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EVENTS HAPPENING IN 2023

- In person hybrid worship at 11AM
- English Bible Study Thursdays at 11:00AM.
- Spanish Bible Study will be Wednesdays at 10:00AM.
- Prayer Time on Fridays at 11AM via zoom.
- Session meeting February 27th at 7PM via zoom
- Worship Team meeting March 28th at 9:30AM via zoom

-Zoom worship Service at 11:00AM

By Computer/Por Computadora

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/870270865>

Meeting ID: 870 270 865

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,870270865# US (New York)

+13126266799,,870270865# US (Chicago)

By Phone/Por teléfono

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 870 270 865

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/870270865>

Prayers and Praise

Please pray for everyone in leadership

Please pray for children/ families

Please pray for the Otu family

Please pray for the Supina/Ruess family

Please pray for the Sevilla family

Please pray for people struggling with cancer for healing

Please pray for leaders, people in a position of authority

Please pray for Israel, Palestine and Ukraine

Please pray for the Denzer Family

Please pray for Heather Blenkinsopp

Please pray for Raquel Welty

Please pray for Theresa

Please pray for Fior

Praise Songs and Hymns

Come! Live in the light!

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain:

*We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.*

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign,
and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers
united in love. *(Refrain)*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *(Refrain)*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *(Refrain)*