**February 18, 2024 First Sunday in Lent**

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Solemn Declaration**

**Call to Worship**Pastor: The voice of God proclaims of Jesus, “You are my beloved, and I love you.”  
**All: We, too, are God’s beloved children, loved and embraced.**Pastor: With all the voices reminding us that we are not enough or don’t belong, it is tempting to forget our place in God’s Kindom.  
**All: With the waters of baptism and the voice of God’s promises, we can face**

**the temptations of any wilderness or desert that would draw us away from**

**the Source of our hope.**Pastor: Embrace your belovedness.  
**All: We rejoice in God’s unending love for us!**

**\*Invocation (Pastor)**God of waters and deserts, God of hope and horizons, we celebrate your presence among us and among all your people. You have proclaimed that Jesus was beloved and, tenderly, you have claimed us as your own. Open the skies. Break through the clouds. Fall softly upon our shoulders and say our names with joy. For this day and each day, no matter what the other voices may say, we are your beloved and we rejoice in your inbreaking Kindom. Amen and Amen!

**\*Hymn #104** *We Hail You God’s Anointed*

**Prayer of Transformation and New Life (Unison)  
O God of love, as Jesus was driven out to be tempted in the wilderness, we too, face wildernesses of our own. We are tempted to forget your promises, to rely upon our own strength, and to listen to the destructive voices of power and oppression. Free us from our own hubris. Help us to reclaim our spiritual center as rooted in your love. Open our being to hearing your voice proclaim us as your child who is welcomed, held, and whole. Amen.**

**Words of Grace (Pastor)**Friends, through wilderness and desert, through sacraments born of water, you are a child of God held tenderly in the embrace of our Creator. Remember your baptism. Remember a path has been made for you. Remember you are not alone. Remember, that in Christ Jesus you are forgiven and made whole. Amen.

**\*Gloria #759**

*Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;*

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*

*world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**\*Peace of Christ**

**Message for Youth**

**Scripture:   Genesis 9: 8-17 (Mary Cresswell);**

**I Peter 3: 18-22 (Mary);**

**Mark 1: 9-15**

**Response of Praise** *Thy Word*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

**Sermon:  “The Time Has Come”**

**\*Hymn #403** *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

**\*The Apostles’ Creed #881**

**Pastoral Prayer and Our Lord’s Prayer (Unison)**

**“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. Amen”**

**Prayer Response #769**

*Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;*

*Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.*

**Invitation to Generosity (Pastor)**Our generosity is born out of our identity in a God whose love is unending and offered to all. In gratitude and joy, we are invited to share a portion of our treasure to ensure that all may come to know of this love of God that never ends.

**Offertory**

**\*Offering Response #780**         *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, you heavenly host:*

*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)  
Abundant God, receive these gifts of love from your servants and use them for the breaking in of your Kindom of love and light. In the name of Jesus, whose way calls us forth in service, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #506** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

**\*Benediction (Pastor)**Go forth to claim your belovedness, trusting that the God who provided Jesus with strength to overcome the temptations of the desert is the very God who will guide you and lead you this day and always. Amen.

**Postlude**

Acknowledgements - Temptation: Service Prayers for the First Sunday in Lent Year B was written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbot, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – February 18, 2024**

**Altar flowers** arepresented by the Bertolet brothers in loving memory of

their mother, Joyce Bertolet.

**Prayer List:** The people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria, The victims of the tornadoes and natural disasters, Richard Adinolfi, Alvin Behm, Marsha Biehl, Joe Brogley, Ed Brous, Irene Burkhardt, Joan Clouser, Jane Detwiler, Laurie and Peter Eaton, Jana Eschbach, Doris Evenstad, Ruth Hardaker, Betty Hawthorne, Adam Hayden, Chip Hoover, Kathy Hughes, Dorcas Kieffer, Jim Kirkhoff, Betty Leister, Robert Mackie, Eleanor Mauger, Daryll McCormick, Calvin Miller, Ollie, Dan and Lois Oister, Phyllis, Holly Rhoads, Dave Richards, Bill Ross, Christian Ross, Karen, Paul, and Scott Steffey, Lee Steiner, Bob Stengel, Dave and Pat Stout, Sandy Strunk, Dottie Taylor, Dotty Washburn, Patti Whisler, Barbara Ziegler

**Tuesday, February 20 – March newsletter deadline**

**Wednesday, February 21 –** Wednesday Crew

Quilters

Lenton Devotions at Zion’s, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

(Soup and Bread)

CCLU Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Pizza and Ping Pong, 5:30 p.m.

Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, February 23 -** Community Meal at Emmanuel, 12:00 p.m.

**Save your Redner’s Receipts!** Please, place your Redner’s Save-A-Tape receipts in the box in the lobby of the Sunday School building. We need the entire register tape in order to get credit. Redner’s will donate 1% of sales to our church.

**Get on Board with Market Cards! Support Your Church!**

Members and friends may purchase a Giant and/or Redner’s Gift card to use for groceries or gas. Denominations of cards come in $25, $50, or $100. There is no charge to you but our church receives 5% of the grocery card purchased. Gift cards to Redner’s or Giant are available Sundays in the Sunday School building or during the week through the church office.

***CareBag List for Pottstown Infusion Center***

Here is a suggested list of donations:

—Knit hat

---Neck Noodle

—Hand lotion/chap stick

—mouth wash

—Prayer shawl/ lap blanket

—diamond painted angel keychain

—a CareNote (or similar) booklet

—word puzzle book

—notepad and pencil