

WORSHIP HANDOUT
Sunday March 6th
First Sunday in Lent
Sacrament of Communion



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Full to the Brim (video) by Paul Demer

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus went to the mountaintop to pray.

Jesus went into the city to heal.

Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

Jesus went to the water's edge to teach.

Jesus went to places of peace and connection,

but Jesus also went to the wilderness.

There is nowhere we can go
that God does not walk with us.

We are in God's house.

Let us worship Holy God.

*HYMN We Hope Against All Hope

TIME OF PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER

God of the wilderness places in our lives,
it can be hard to hear you in the desert.

It can be hard to hear you in the city,
in the midst of our calendar reminders,
rush-hour traffic, and notification alerts.

It can be hard to hear you, so we ask:

make everything quiet.
Pause the chaos.
Still the rushing.
Ease our racing thoughts.
Give us ears to hear your Word for us today
which promises that even in the desert
you are full to the brim.
We are listening.
We ache for your good news.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

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 now and
forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

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

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LESSON 1 Deuteronomy 26:1-11 CEB

Once you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you take possession of it and are settled there, ² take some of the early produce of the fertile ground that you have harvested from the land the Lord your God is giving you, and put it in a basket. Then go to the location the Lord your God selects for his name to reside. ³ Go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him: “I am declaring right now before the Lord my God that I have indeed arrived in the land the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.”

⁴ The priest will then take the basket from you and place it before the Lord your God's altar. ⁵ Then you should solemnly state before the Lord your God:

“My father was a starving Aramean. He went down to Egypt, living as an immigrant there with few family members, but that is where he became a great nation, mighty and numerous. ⁶ The Egyptians treated us terribly, oppressing us and forcing hard labor on us. ⁷ So we cried out for help to the Lord, our ancestors' God. The Lord heard our call. God saw our misery, our trouble, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, with awesome power, and with signs and wonders. ⁹ He brought us to this place and gave us this land—a land full of milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I am bringing the early produce of the fertile ground that you, Lord, have given me.”

Set the produce before the Lord your God, bowing down before the Lord your God. ¹¹ Then celebrate all the good things the Lord your God has done for you and your family—each one of you along with the Levites and the immigrants who are among you.

May God add a blessing to this reading.

*LESSON 2

Luke 4:1-13 CEB

Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. ² There he was tempted for forty days by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and afterward Jesus was starving. ³ The devil said to him, “Since you are God’s Son, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”

⁴ Jesus replied, “It’s written, *People won’t live only by bread.*”

⁵ Next the devil led him to a high place and showed him in a single instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ The devil said, “I will give you this whole domain and the glory of all these kingdoms. It’s been entrusted to me and I can give it to anyone I want. ⁷ Therefore, if you will worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸ Jesus answered, “It’s written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*”

⁹ The devil brought him into Jerusalem and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, “Since you are God’s Son, throw yourself down from here; ¹⁰ for it’s written: *He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you* ¹¹ and *they will take you up in their hands so that you won’t hit your foot on a stone.*”

¹² Jesus answered, “It’s been said, *Don’t test the Lord your God.*” ¹³ After finishing every temptation, the devil departed from him until the next opportunity.

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

P: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Even in the Desert”

HYMN

Come, Share the Lord

TFWS 2269

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, when we think that expansive life is about power—

Teach us a new way.

Gracious Creator, when we think that expansive life is about material wealth—

Teach us a new way.

Gracious Author, when we think that expansive life is about control—

Teach us a new way.

Teach us to live as you live.

Teach us to love as you love.

Forgive us when we don't.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Siblings in Christ,

no matter how many times we mess up,

no matter how far we wander,

no matter how lost we feel,

God's grace is full to the brim.

It overflows in desert places.

It finds us where we are and

it covers us in mercy.

Hear and believe this good news—

God's love is overflowing.

We are drenched in mercy.

Thanks be to God, amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe God is love.

We believe God's love is overflowing.

We believe Jesus is a river.

We believe that river is running toward us.

We believe the Holy Spirit is a vessel.

We believe that vessel holds mercy for you and for me.

We believe the wilderness is real.

We believe the desert is lonely.

We believe that Jesus has been there.

We know that we do not walk alone.

Even in the desert,

we are loved.

Even in the desert,

God is with us.

Even in the desert,

this love overflows.

Thanks be to God,

amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Even in the Desert

BENEDICTION

(No benediction response)

POSTLUDE