

MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

March 6, 2022 · First Sunday of Lent & Communion



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

READ:

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. + Luke 4:1-2

REFLECT:

It's easy to think of Jesus' wandering in the desert (or to think of winter, or of Lent, or of any lean time) as something that's gone wrong. But for plants that grow from bulbs, like tulips and daffodils, these lean times are necessary. They have leaves and flowers for a few short weeks, and use that time to make and store food for the other eight months of the year. And without a period of cold, they won't emerge from their bulbs again. For them, winter isn't a bug in the program; it's a feature.

PRAY: Let the winter work on me like it does on the bulbs, O God. Let it give me rest and nourishment, and then let me rise in beauty and glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WELCOME

Rev. Pam Cochrane

PRELUDE

Ji Hye Jung

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We may be entering this season arid, dry from pain and injustices.

Many: And yet, God is still hydrating our spirits.

One: We may be wandering, feeling as if we have no direction.

Many: And yet, God is guiding us in the wilderness.

One: We may be fearful, wondering what comes next.

Many: And yet, God is surrounding us with peace.

One: We may begin our Lenten journey spiritually arid, aimless, and anxious.

Many: But the Spirit of Strength will never leave our side.

HYMNGreat Is Your Faithfulness*

Black No. 423

INVOCATION OF GOD'S PRESENCE (UNISON)

Divine Sojourner, as we saunter far into the wilderness, may your light sustain us.
May the questions that fill our minds with doubt drift away into the sands of the
journey. May we dig within our souls to remove the prejudices deep within us.
However we wander in this season, may your Holy Glow refocus our attention on
our relationship with you and the ways we connect with our siblings...

in the name of the one who illuminates our path we pray...

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 today our daily bread. 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, for ever and ever, Amen.

***RESPONSE**

Tune: Red No. 241

Spirit divine, attend our prayers,
And make this world thy home.
Descend with all thy gracious powers,
O come, great Spirit, come!

PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND GROWTH & ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

Ed Rozmiarek

SPECIAL MUSIC

What Feast Will You Bring?
Chancel Choir

Charles McCartha

TIME OF OFFERING**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy Stream of Gifts,
we share our gratitude for all of our fruits – from our possessions to knowledge
and from our time to abilities. May our “best” be something that we do not hoard
but that we freely give away. As we embrace this season of fasting and reflection,
may we recognize the best of our talents, treasures, and time and share with God
and neighbor. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY**

Lyrics: Thomas Ken, Tune: Red No. 64

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose pow'r uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE READING— Deuteronomy 26:1–11 & Luke 4:1–13

Priscilla Curda
pew Bible pg. 174; 892

MESSAGE

“Practicing Our Faith”

Rev. Pam Cochrane

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Douglas Vooys

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)**

Gracious, God,
we thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit in our midst healing
and renewing our heart and providing nourishment for our soul.
May we be strengthened to carry Christ's light, love and peace
with us in all we do and say. Amen.

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

Before Your Cross, O Jesus

Black No. 191

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ji Hye Jung

*Our Worship together concludes with the Benediction.
The Postlude is transitional music which inspires us as we go forth as
disciples to serve God and one another. Worship has ended.
Our Service Begins. . .*

*The altar flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of
Eugene & Glenda Acheson
Given by Karen Kane*

*The chancel flowers this Sunday are in celebration of
Spencer's 9th & Calla's 7th Birthdays
Given by the family*

*The steeple is lit this week in loving memory of
George & Della Bradstreet
Given by Bill & Adrienne Bradstreet*

Sunday's Servants:

Ushers: Judy Drouin, Adrienne Bradstreet , Linda Matthews
Deacon: Ray Lavendar
Scripture Reader: Priscilla Curda

MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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Sunday Morning Worship Service at 10am

Zoom Prayer & Table Worship — Tuesdays at 6pm

Zoom Bible Study — Thursdays at 12noon

**Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9 am – 2 pm
Fridays: 9 am –2 pm working remote**