

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Piedmonte
Music Director – Gregory Fraser
*** Congregation will stand**

PRELUDE with SILENT PRAYERS: Mozart Sonata in A minor 2nd Movement

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - During Covid, masks are required. There will be no singing other than by the minister and organist. At this time there is no need to stand during designated hymns. Hymn lyrics are provided as inserts so you may participate spiritually. We do not touch hymnals, friendship pads, Bibles, or offering plates. Place offering in plate upon entrance or when exiting.

INTROIT: “Your Only Son (Lamb of God)” ” *(See Insert to follow along)*

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 25)

Leader: O God, we lift up our souls and put our trust in you.

All: Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your paths.

O God, lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation;

All: for you we wait all day long.

Leader: God leads the humble in what is right,

All: and teaches the humble God’s way.

*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Almighty God, your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

*OPENING HYMN: “Forty Days and Forty Nights” *(See Insert)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: We come to our 40-day journey of Lent with penitence in our hearts. The polarization between people in our country and in our world are in us as well. We yearn for truth, peace, justice. Yet, we know that we have not lived as those who are formed in the truth, peace and justice of Christ. We confess our sin, assured of God’s mercy and empowering grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Merciful God, we confess we have too often turned aside from your way. We have failed to love you and our neighbor, neglected justice and ignored your truth. Forgive us, and restore in us your Spirit of compassion and justice-seeking love. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God in Christ is steadfast in love and mercy. So friends, hear the good news of the gospel. In Christ we are forgiven, set free from the sins that bind us. We are empowered to love God with all of who we are, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. **All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*RESPONSE: GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Leader: The peace of Christ be with all of you. **All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share a sign of Christ’s peace with each other in community.

(turn to extend signs of peace to neighbors from a distance)

YOUTH MESSAGE: “Tempting, I Know. . .!”

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Gracious God, You are our way in the wilderness. Your Word will guide us through these 40 days of Lent so that we may reformed, restored, and renewed. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Peter 3:13-22

Sung Response: “Lord, to You My Soul is Lifted” (Psalm 50)

Mark 1:9-15

Response to God’s Word

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord! **All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: “Surviving the Wilderness”

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

*HYMN: “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High” *(See Insert)*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one true God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS (Please be seated)

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

THE 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.

OFFERING / DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN: “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” *(See Insert)*

*BENEDICTION / RESPONSE: ***Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen.***

POSTLUDE: Mozart Sonata in A minor 3rd Movement

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY, February 21, 2021

1st Sunday in Lent

9:00am 11:00am	CONTEMPORARY Worship Service – Taylor Hall TRADITIONAL Worship Service – Sanctuary; Greeter is Deacon Gloria Gubosh
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THIS WEEK: February 22-27, 2021

Monday, February 22 Tuesday, February 23 Thursday, February 25 Friday, February 26	Sharing & Caring 6:30pm Session Mtg. 6pm Bible Study 6-7:30pm Bible Study 10-11:30am
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Tuesday, March 9 Sunday, March 14 Sunday, March 28 Thursday, April 1 Friday, April 2 Sunday, April 4	Trustee Mtg. 6:30pm Daylight Saving Time Begins Palm Sunday Maundy Thursday Good Friday Easter Sunday – One Great Hour of Sharing
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- Middle School Massanetta Summer 2021 Trip – MARCH 25 FIRM INTEREST DEADLINE**
The NCP Youth Ministry Leaders Team is working hard to plan its Middle School Massanetta Summer 2021 Trip, scheduled for June 22-25, 2021. MARCH 25 has now been established as “FIRM INTEREST” DEADLINE. Names received by then will be reported to Massanetta as NCP’s official group. A Google link to register names has been created. Please go here to register names: <https://forms.gle/RbA36sXhndBDM8Mz8>. FYI – A COVID CONTINGENCY PLAN is also in discussion with several options being looked into. Details as needed will follow. Let’s keep spreading the word, inviting any/all middle school youth: kids and grandkids; members and non-members; churchy or non-churchy; friends-of-friends-of-friends! Whether we’ve got one or one-hundred youth – let’s pray and trust the Spirit to help us make this a faith-enriching experience. And let us give thanks for the possibilities we have before us – none of which are impossible with God!
For more information on the planned trip or on the NCP Youth Ministry Leaders Team feel free to contact Pastor Mark Piedmonte-Silvoy (Buckingham Presbyterian) at 610-428-3135 or pastorpiedmonte@gmail.com.
- PRAYERS:** Let us pray for all in our lives who are struggling with illness or injury of any kind. Let us pray for healing from painful divisions in our nation and in our world. Let us pray for an end of COVID 19 and for reliable vaccinations to soon be widespread and available for all.



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INTROIT: YOUR ONLY SON (LAMB OF GOD)

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod,
and to become the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

OPENING HYMN: FORTY DAYS & FORTY NIGHTS

1 Forty days and forty nights
You were fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted, and yet undefiled.
2 Shall not we Your sorrow share
And from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
Strong with You to suffer pain?
3 Then, if Satan on us press,
Flesh or spirit to assail,
Victor in the wilderness,
Grant we may not faint nor fail!
4 So shall we have peace divine;
Holier gladness ours shall be.
'Round us, too, shall angels shine,
Such as served You faithfully.
5 Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
Ever constant by Your side,
That with You we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.

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**2ND HYMN: O LOVE, HOW DEEP,
HOW BROAD, HOW HIGH**

1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
how passing thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.

2. For us baptized, for us he bore
his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew,
for us the tempter overthrew.

3. For us to wicked hands betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death,
for us gave up his dying breath.

4. For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen and to cheer.

5. All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad,
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

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CLOSING HYMN: JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE

Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee

Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

When my feeble life is o'er
Time for me will be no more
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore



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