

WORSHIP ORDER FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 21, 2021
NEILLSVILLE UCC

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have gathered in the presence of God our creator, who sets before us the ways of life and death.

We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ, who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship that we may know its joy.

We have gathered in the presence of the Spirit, who sustains us in trial and rejoicing.

In our living and in our dying, we belong to God.

In the shadow of God's wings, we sing for joy. Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, find in us those places where we truly repent and receive the confession of our hearts. For we have wounded the innocent, betrayed the just, denied the true, and destroyed the holy. Make our sorrow real, our intention valiant, our return steady. And whether we stand firm against the evils in us, or falter and fall again; hold us in the enormous hands of your mercy, and re-create us in the image of your joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TIME OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PSALTER READING

Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

⁸Good and upright is the LORD;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

SERMON "Between Beasts and Angels"
Pastor Jim Mohr

HYMN "We Are Often Tossed and Driven"
(We'll Understand It Better By and By)
Charles Albert Tindley, c. 1906

We are often tossed and driven.
On the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempests
Often succeed a bright Sunshine;
In the land of perfect day,
When the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by

Refrain:

**By and by, when the morning comes,
When the saints of God are gathered home,
We'll tell them the story how we've
overcome:**

**For they'll understand it better by and by (by
and by)**

We are often destitute of the
things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter,
Thirsty jills and barren lands;
In our God our trust's assured,
And according to the Word,
We will understand it better by and by

Refrain

Trials harsh on every hand,
And we cannot understand
All the ways that God would lead us
To that blessed promised land;
We are guided by God's eye,
And we'll follow till we die
We will understand it better by and by

Refrain:

Temptations, hidden snares
often take us unawares
And our hearts are made to bleed
for many a thoughtless word or deed
And we wonder why the test,
when we try to do our best,
But we'll understand it better by and by

Refrain

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**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.**

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**We would like to thank Ruth and Bob Schmidt
for sponsoring this week's radio broadcast in
memory of mom, Lucella Morh & sister Lois
Mendenhall.**