

The First Sunday in Lent

March 6, 2022

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE *"Assurance"* John Ness Beck
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lent calls us to a special journey.

We are travelers, seeking to deepen our relationship with God.

Lent calls us to face the temptations in our lives.

We are people gathered to learn more about God.

Let us worship the God of love.

HYMN *"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"* M. Luther
#263 in red UCC, #439 in New Century

**A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing,
Our present help amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe
with craft and power great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth without an equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
but there is one who takes our side.
the One of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus sets us free!
With mighty power to save,
victorious o'er the grave,
Christ will prevail triumphant.**

**And though this world with devils filled
should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear for God has willed
the truth to triumph through us.
The powers of evil grim,
we tremble not for them;
their rage we can endure, for lo,
their doom is sure: one little word shall fell them.**

**That word beyond all earthly powers
forever is abiding;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
for Christ is with us siding.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill;
God's truth shall triumph still;
God's reign endures forever.**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of life, you bless us with so many gifts. You call us to care for one another, and to care for all creation. Sometimes it is tempting for us to look for happiness in the wrong place. Sometimes we think that the things we could have, or the things we could do, would make us happy. Forgive us when we lose focus. In this Lenten season, bring us closer to you, O God. Fill our lives with your presence. Help us to focus our attention on what matters most. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Deuteronomy 26:1-11

“Living in the land of promise”

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.’ ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 4:1-13

“Led by the Spirit”

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where 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. ³The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of

bread.’ ⁴Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone.” ’

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, ‘To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’ ⁸Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.” ’

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you”, ¹¹and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.” ’

¹²Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” ’ ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

SERMON Pastor James Mohr

“Testing-----1,2,3”

HYMN “Forty Days and Forty Nights” G.H.Smyttan
#205 in New Century Hymnal

**Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights tempted,
and yet undefiled.**

**Shall we not your sorrow share
and from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with you to suffer pain?**

**Then if Satan on us press,
flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness,
grant that we not faint or fail!**

**So shall we have peace divine:
holier gladness our shall be;
‘Round us, too, shall angles shine,
such as served you faithfully.**

**Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
ever constant by your side;
That with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.**

THE OFFERING SERVICE

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The United Church of Christ practices open communion. People of all ages who confess Christ as savior are welcome.

Invitation (Pastor)

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**All: (sung) This is the joyful feast
Of the people of God.
Men and women,
Youth and children,
Come from the east and the west,
From the north and the south,
And gather about Christ's table.**

Pastor: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor:

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets.

We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved.

We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm.

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life.

With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name:

**All: (sung) Holy, holy, holy
God of love and majesty,
The whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.
Blessed is the one
Who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor:

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

All:

**In the strength Christ gives us,
we offer ourselves to you, eternal God,
and give thanks
that you have called us to serve you.
Amen.**

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

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.

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

HYMN "For the Bread, Which Thou Hast Broken"

L.F. Benson (#214 red UCC)

For the bread, which thou hast broken,
For the wine, which thou hast poured,
For the words, which thou has spoken,
Now we give thee thanks, O Lord.

By this pledge that thou dost love us,
By the gift of peace restored,
By thy call to heav'n above us,
Hallow all our lives, O Lord.

With our sainted ones in glory
Seated at our Father's board,
May the church that waiteth for thee
Keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

In thy service, Lord, defend us;
In our hearts keep watch and ward;
In the world where thou dost send us
Let thy kingdom come, O Lord.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please stay seated

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

We highly recommend everyone attending services to wear a mask and practice social distancing.
UCC Leadership Council

WELCOME

We welcome you to our service of worship!
We are glad that you have joined us in-person, through the internet or on the radio.
We pray that you will hear God's call,
Seek to follow Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO BROADCAST

11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN
98.5FM and 1370AM

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by Ruth & Bob Schmidt in memory of brother, Marvin Mohr.

- Today, March 6th –
9:15 am - Sunday School
- Monday, March 7th –
9:00 am – Card Making
- Tuesday, March 8th –
5:00 pm – Deacons Meeting
7:00 pm – Christian Ed Meeting Zoom
- Thursday, March 10th –
1:30 pm - Circle of Friends Meeting
- Sunday, March 13th –
Day Light Savings Time Change /Spring Forward

