

First Sunday in Lent

9:30AM, March 9th, 2025

Asterisk (*) indicates standing, as able. Bold/colored type indicates text spoken in unison.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

On this first Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness, a place of wild and dangerous things, of testing and temptation away from the security of home.

God, rescue us in the wilderness!

Once again, we watch and listen as Satan throws out temptation upon temptation, and we find our security in Jesus, who does not waver from the truth.

God, rescue us within the wilderness!

Once again, we face our own frailty and realize that the wilderness is not nearly as dangerous as our choices to prioritize selfish gain and hoarding of power.

God, rescue us through the wilderness!

Once again, we call upon God in the wildernesses of our lives, and we trust God's faithful reply:

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*HYMN "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" **UMH # 269**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed **UMH # 881**

OPENING PRAYER Unison

God, you are our refuge. You are the shore in sight, the hands that reach out, the ground on which we rest. God, you are our strength. You are the life we long for, our refusal to give up, the keys to the home we carry with us. God, you are our help in times of trouble. We call on you from the ruins and the rubble. We call on you from the wildness and the deep. We call on you to meet us in this place! Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

Jesus, we confess that when we read about your temptations, we excuse ourselves. After all, we reason, we are not you. Of course, you passed the test, we say. You're God, right? But we mere mortals have no expectation that we can withstand evil like you did. But we are reminded that you are not only Savior; you are example. You faced the temptation to prove yourself, to be spectacular, and to have consuming power. And you walked away, resisting. Forgive us when we have not resisted; when we have yielded to temptation. Forgive us for loving power and prestige more than God. Help us to choose a life rooted in God's word and grace. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The Holy One is generous, pouring out blessings on all who call on God's name. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-13 (NRSV)

- 1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,
- 2 where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.
- 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."
- 4 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"
- 5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.
- 6 And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.
- 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."
- 8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"
- 9 Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,

10 for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'

11 and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

12 Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

13 When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

MESSAGE "Our Lenten Journey: Examination" Rev. Dongkue Jee

RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" **UMH # 110**

THE LORD'S PRAYER **UMH # 895**

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" **UMH # 95**

*PRAYER OF OFFERING Unison

Faithful God, who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives, as we offer these gifts, we remember your sustaining presence. In this period of spiritual renewal, strengthen us to resist temptation and guide us to live in community with love and grace. May these offerings be signs of hope and acts of compassion that reflect the love you have shown us in Christ. Empower us to rise together, supporting one another on this journey of faith and transformation. In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN "Take Time to Be Holy" **UMH # 395**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* The offering plate is located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Please feel free to participate.

* Fellowship follows the worship service. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Parlor.



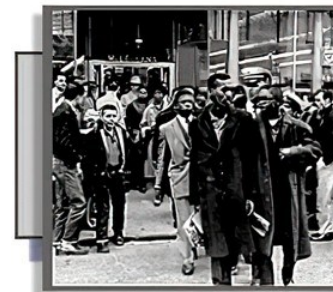
Welcome to
Mendham United Methodist Church

www.mendhamumc.org

10 East Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945

First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 9th, 2025



First Sunday in
Lent *YEAR C*

Classic Banner, Year C, First Sunday in Lent, 1997,
Vanderbilt Divinity Library staff, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN, United States

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