

First Sunday in Lent

March 6, 2022



First Fruits by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman. Inspired by Deuteronomy 26:1-11



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The Words of Preparation

Our Lenten theme this year is Full to the Brim. We will focus on God's grace and how we live in that grace and extend that grace to others. The lectionary scriptures show us a God who offers us grace-grace that is underserved, unearned, illogical, and boundless. If love is our beginning—how can we live our lives led by love's promises? It reminds us to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.

Please silence your cellphones during this time of worship.

The Chiming

The Greeting

Rev. Kevin Gardner-Sinclair

Minister: The peace and love of Christ be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

The Prelude

Jonathan Oblander

Hear us, O Lord, Jeanne Demessieux

The Call to Worship (based on Deuteronomy 26)

Rev. Susan Reed

Leader: When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, take some of the first fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land, and put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

People: Thanks be to God for the fruit of the harvest we find in the desert places of our lives.

Leader: Then you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say, "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."

We were a wandering people and went down into Egypt and lived there as aliens and were treated harshly by the Egyptians. In our oppression we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; and the LORD heard our voice and delivered to us this land; a land flowing with milk and honey.

People: Thanks be to God for the fruit of the harvest we find in the desert places of our lives.

Leader: So on this first Sunday in Lent, we bring the gifts God has given us and set them down before the LORD our God and give thanks for provisions of grace and mercy we find along our journey of life.

People: Let us sing praises to God who guides us through the desert places of our lives.

***The Hymn of Praise**

Congregation

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah, No. 634

The Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Susan Reed

Congregational Response during the Confessional:

Forgive us and Teach us a new way, O Lord.

Congregational Response after the Words of Forgiveness:

God's love is overflowing and we are drenched in mercy. Thanks be to God!

The Choral Worship

Chancel Choir

Beside a Stream of Living Water, Keesecker/Kraft

(The congregation is invited to bring your pebbles representing God's mercy and place them in the bowls located in the front. Children, ages pre-K to 3rd grade, will leave for their time of worship, after placing their pebbles in the bowls, and exit through the door located to the left of the pulpit.)

***The Gospel Lesson**

Rev. Kevin Gardner-Sinclair

Luke 4:1-13

The Sermon

Rev. Kevin Gardner-Sinclair

"Full to the Brim: Even in the Desert"

***The Hymn of Discipleship (FOUNDATION)**

Congregation

Our Lord, you were sent to a place wild and vast; To ponder your mission, to pray and to fast; Then hungry and weary, you faced night and day. The subtle temptations to turn from God's way.

Our Lord, in your struggle you chose to obey; God's word filled your heart and you trusted God's way. Now risen, you save us from sins that destroy; You give us your Spirit, your peace and your joy.

The Ordinance of Communion

Rev. Kevin Gardner-Sinclair

The Bread of Life

The Cup of Salvation

***The Offertory Prayer**

Daniel Whitehead

The Offertory

Jonathan Oblander

From God Will Nothing Part Me, J.S. Bach

***The Offertory Response**

Congregation

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.

***The Benediction**

Rev. Kevin Gardner-Sinclair

***The Postlude**

Jonathan Oblander

Toccata on FOUNDATION, Claude Murphee

New Member Pledge: In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place. We offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes. We hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you by God's grace.

Prayer Concerns

Sympathy to Robert and Susan Gammon in the death

of Don Gammon, Robert's father

Cathern Reeves, mother of Mary Lucy Hook, prayer concerns

Kelly York Shelby, sister of Christy Cox, health concerns

Judy Gilpin, hospice care

Sewell Long, health concerns

Michael Higdon, recent surgery

Miles Reynolds, health concerns

Dick and Lucille Brown, health concerns

Bill and Susan Ohlendorf, brother and sister-in-law of Elaine Baker, health concerns

Joe and Debby Lin, brother and sister-in-law of Steve Lin, health concerns

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by her loving family to celebrate the memory of Ida Lee Waddle.