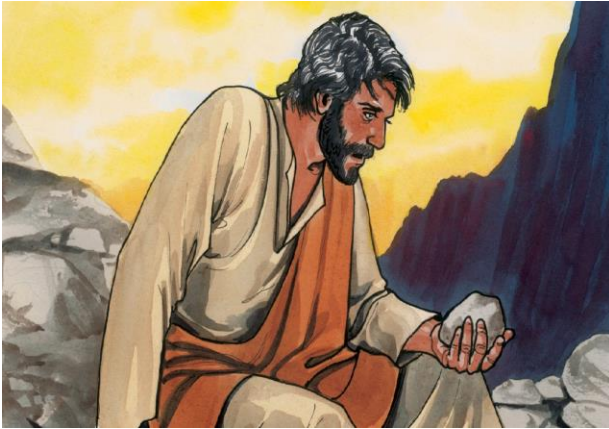


**March 1, 2020 – 10:00 am**  
**First Sunday in Lent**



**Matthew 4:1-11 The temptations of Christ**

**ST. JOHN**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION**

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT
- LITURGY BY REV ELIZABETH DILLEY
- SCRIPTURE TEXTS FROM THE COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE.
- \*PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.
- **NCH** IS THE NEW CENTURY HYMNAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE: **“It Is Well with My Soul/The Comforter  
Has Come”** Philip P. Bliss

\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Temptation surrounds us at every turn, inviting us to take just a little more:

**People: More food, more money, more power,  
more life!**

One: “What could it hurt?” we hear, on television, from friends, in our own souls:

**People: More suffering, more hunger, more need,  
more fear, more anger.**

One: So we gather today in worship to hear the consequences of “more”:

**People: And to celebrate that we do not need “more”  
when we have everything in Christ.**

One: Beloved of God, let us drink deeply from the wellspring of God’s Spirit, which has all we need to live fully, love deeply, and serve faithfully.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

**God, you are our hiding place and our refuge in the time of distress. We turn to you now, seeking comfort from the wounds of the world and power to face all our afflictions. Be present in our struggle, and help us to rest in your eternal promises, that we might be fed both with the bread of the world and the nourishment of your word, strong to resist temptation and faithful in our worship of you. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE: NCH 193**

**“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**

**\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION:**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**Creative, passionate God, you delight to shape the world in beauty and harmony. You invite us to participate in the balance of creation. We grow in wisdom as our experience unfolds; we take good learning out of difficult situations yet also find our well-meant endeavors leading to unintended consequences.**

**Too often we give in to temptation that disrupts the joyous, chaotic order of the universe. We cannot undo all our mistakes, but we can turn once more to the living presence of Jesus and find new ways to live and love each other and the earth. *Silence***

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

**\*GLORIA: NCH 759**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three- in-One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**FIRST TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

**Lay Liturgist**

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 32 Page 642**

**EPISTLE READING: Romans 5:12-19 Lay Liturgist**

**TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:**

**\*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 4:1-11 (NRSV)**

**SERMON: Matthew 4:3 “If you are the Son of God . . .”**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH 427**

**“God Made from One Blood**

**PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with silent, personal prayer**

**PRAYER RESPONSE: NCH 773 “Remember Me”**

**Remember me, remember me,  
O Jesus, remember me.**

**OFFERTORY: “Treasure of Calvary” Don Newman**

**\*DOXOLOGY: NCH 780**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done.  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

**Faithful God, let these gifts be like food and drink in the wilderness for those who have suffered and longed for your presence. May these offerings strengthen those who are resisting temptation and lead us to attend to all who need your healing touch. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our example and savior. Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION: (ON SCREEN)**

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

**Thank you, merciful God, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice**

you have made our own.

Give us the gifts of this holy communion — oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**\*SENDING HYMN: NCH 211**

**“Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days”**

**\*BENEDICTION:**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH 75 Verse 1**

**Lord, make me more holy, Lord, make me more holy.  
Lord, make me more holy, until we meet again.  
Holy, holy, holy until we meet again.**

**\*POSTLUDE: “Festive Voluntary” Henry Purcell**