

March 6, 2022 – First Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Greeting

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 73 - Based on Psalm 100, "Enter, Rejoice, and Come In" closes with "Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in" a fitting opening for today's Annual Meeting service.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Gather to remember and share stories of faith; rejoice in the goodness of our loving God.

Congregation: Before our stories began, there was God; through all our days, God walks with us.

Liturgist: Worship the one who gives and sustains life; sing praises to the one who is our refuge.

Congregation: There is no place we can go where God is not; amid life's terrors, God's promises hold true.

Liturgist: Delight in God, whose protection we enjoy; dance with the God, who frees us for new possibilities.

Congregation: We call out to God, expecting to be heard; we listen, knowing there is truth to be received.

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH - 205 - "Forty Days and Forty Nights" tells of the journey Christ endured and was penned by George Hunt Smyttan. It closes with "keep us Savior dear, ever constant by your side; that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide."

Confession of Sin (Liturgist 1 or Liturgist 2 or Both)

Sovereign God, we confess our desire to reshape your world to our own advantage. We are more concerned with what we eat than with who will get to eat today. Our own security is more important to us than the health and safety of all your children. The first fruits of our labor grace the altars of our own desires instead of honoring you. We prefer that you keep your distance from us unless we need you. We like promises without commands, gifts without responsibilities. O God, we confess that our ways don't work. Turn us around for true worship and service, as forgiven and forgiving people. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri (Instrumental)

Old Testament Lesson – Deuteronomy 26:1-11 – God's people are to give offerings of gratitude to God when they make it to the promised land - the first fruits of their harvest are to be given as a thanksgiving offering.

Hymn of Praise (Recorded) Our First Church Youth Sunday School program reminds us of the foundation of all our studies; “The B- I – B – L - E” is an modern take on the classic children’s tune, performed by Worshiphouse Kids.

Children’s Sermon

Epistle Lesson – Romans 10:8b-13 – We are justified by our faith in the Triune God. Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved, Jews and Gentiles alike.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord’s Prayer

Offering

Offertory - NCH 72 - “Here, O God, Your Servants Gather” closes with “Jesus, Leader, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.”

Doxology

Gospel Lesson – Luke 4:1-13 – Jesus is tempted in the wilderness by Satan to use his powers to serve himself. Our Lord was tempted three times and each time he used scripture as a guide.

Sermon

Communion

Hymn (Instrumental) - 209 - “O Love, How Cast, How Flowing Free” is connected to today’s Gospel. It recounts the life of Christ and has been described as a precursor of Christmas & Epiphany carols.

Benediction

15 Minute Break

Congregational Meeting