

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

March 6, 2022



***Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an
Affirming and Inclusive community***

Welcome to St. David's United Church

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Presiding: Amy Haynes

We gather in faith as a Christ-infused church

(Welcome to worship today. Whether you are worshipping with us today for the first time or you have been here for longer than you can remember, you are welcome to be here and to participate however you feel comfortable. Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this sacred space. God welcomes each of us to worship.)

SEED OF MEDITATION

The gospel gives us a blessed assurance that we operate inside of an abundant, limitless, infinite Love. Even though we will constantly fail, failure is not the final word. We also have hope that everything can be mended, healed, and restored. —Richard Rohr

PRELUDE

Improvisation

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

As darkness gives way to light
and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,

We come today to be reminded of God's love for us.

Like the green shoots of renewed life,
stirring beneath the soil,

We welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.

In this time of reflection and repentance,

**We affirm our identity, we claim our security,
as children of God.**

OPENING PRAYER

God, you know us in the depths of our hearts. Our longings, our intentions, our places of struggle are all known to you. You meet us there with words of courage and deliverance. When fear or insecurity or ego beckons, do not let us be swayed in the direction of evil but encourage us to trust in you. In Christ, our guide. Amen.

OPENING HYMN*God in Darkness**MV #17*

1. God in the darkness, God beyond our knowing,
patient creator, seed in secret growing, rock of the living,
water ever flowing, come and renew us.
2. God in the darkness, God in all our grieving, friend of our tears,
companion never leaving, drawing us past
the limits of believing, come and renew us.
3. God in the darkness, God of holy dreaming, giver of hope,
and pledge of our redeeming, Spirit of truth,
our memory and meaning, come and renew us.

LENTEN LITANY

Because temptation is woven into the fabric of our lives,
and we know the weariness of forty days in the desert,
and the beckoning power of sweet fruit,
and the vain promises of the world,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because we see the broken before the whole,
and the half-empty cup, and the unfinished task,
and the thirst in freedom's quest,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because we trust in what we can see,
and we are blinded by our prejudices,
and we do not know what we do not know,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because our need for correctness exceeds our need for truth,
and our excuses preempt the cry of the wounded,
and our celebration of blessing is mindless of those displaced,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because you came among us,
and breathed into our sinewy souls,
and healed our pain and let us wound you,
and loved us to the end,
and triumphed over all our hatred,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

ANTHEM

Be Not Afraid

Craig Courtney

SCRIPTURE Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

REFLECTION

ANTHEM

Cast Your Burden On The Lord

Sally DeFord

READING/POEM

HYMN

To the Desert Jesus Came

VU #113

- 1 To the desert Jesus came,
 to wrestle and to seek God's way.
 Sun and moon rose high above
 to watch him as he'd fast and pray.
 Together through the valley,
 the tempter led him around.
 Together through the valley,
 so Jesus answers found.
- 2 Like the Hebrews long ago
 who ventured through the desert sand,
 did he find a rock of faith,
 where streams of living waters ran?
 Together through the valley,
 so shall we make our way.
 Together through the valley,
 we'll walk for forty days.

- 3 In the desert we may find
 the mystery of who we are,
following a faithful God,
 so very close and yet so far.
Together through the valley,
 we'll gather our dreams in prayer,
together through the valley,
 and find God's presence there.
- 4 From the ashes to the hill,
 we'll travel on our Lenten road.
Hand in hand we'll cross this sand,
 and share each other's heavy load.
Together through the valley,
 we'll watch the changing sky.
Together through the valley,
 as Easter's dawn draws nigh.

OFFERTORY/PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray:

Lord, listen to our prayers for ourselves at this time.

Bring to our minds the places we have compromised the truth
for that which is convenient to us;

the times we have shut our eyes and ears and hearts to the needs of others;

the times we have indulged ourselves to our own detriment.

Help us, dear God, to know that you forgive these things,

and give us strength to resist them in the future.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, listen to our prayers for others at this time:

for those who hunger for bread but only find stones;

for those who seek justice but can find no advocate who will help them;

for those who are in danger and have no one watching over them.

Lord, hear our prayer.

(SILENCE)

DISCIPLE'S PRAYER

Mother of us all,

who dwells within and beyond,

Sacred is your name.

May your holy vision for collective flourishing
come to fruition among us.

May your dreams of justice, love, compassion, and connection be enfolded on earth.

Provide us today with what we need to be nourished in body, soul, and heart. Forgive us for the harm we cause as we seek to forgive those who have harmed us.

Lead us away from everything that destroys and liberate us from the hands of evil.

For you are the ultimate source of hope.

Your power-with exceeds all power-over.

Your presence incites eternal wonder.

All praise to you, our comfort and strength.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSINGS AND COMMISSIONING

HYMN

She Comes Sailing on the Wind

VU #380

She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

- 1 Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth,
like a mother breathing life into her child. (to Verse 2)
- 2 Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts
 found new delight,
and then down the ages still she flew on. R
- 3 To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,
a whisper softly calling in the dark,
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would
 never end,
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart. (to Verse 4)
- 4 Flying to the river, she waited circling high
above the child now grown so full of grace.
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky,
and she carried him away in her embrace. R

5 Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
 after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
 the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,
 bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on. R

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Improvisation*

**THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY
WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Music.....Sanctuary Choir
Accompanist.....Garrett Krause
Scripture Reader.....Darlene Heynen

Sacred Service Team
Worship Committee
PSALT & Tech Team

Cover Art Information

Title: Three Temptations

Date: 2019

Artist: Hochhalter, Cara B.

Notes: COMMENTARY BY THE ARTIST:

Three Temptations

Luke 4:1-13

"It seemed the perfect place to create this image while on retreat at The Monastery of Christ in the Desert, near Abiquiu, New Mexico. The three temptations are depicted as the devil challenges Jesus to turn stone into bread, to become a ruler over all, and to test the angels' protection. My image of Jesus did not look as anguished as I imagined when faced with temptations that would lure him away from his being in God. With a separate block depicting the Cholla cactus that grow along the paths in New Mexico, I created an overlay print. Someone told me, "Now it looks 'prickly'!" What a good description of those times when we are tempted to use our own power and gifts for selfish reasons."