

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

March 9, 2025

Lent 1

9:30 am

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## WELCOME AND VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation.

**We genuinely welcome people of all ages,  
race, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,  
beliefs,  
and those who are cognitively  
and or physically challenged.**

Our vision is to be a community of love and purpose,  
**each one engaged in ministry,  
seeking to know Christ, growing in discipleship,  
and embodying God's love for the world.**



*"Temptation"*

## **Prayer Candles**

Before worship, you may offer a prayer and light a candle at the communion table.

### **We Gather**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

#### Call to Worship

These times, they are troubling. This journey is hard...

**We follow our faithful Lord.**

It is God who sustains, and not the temptations of the world...

**We follow our faithful Lord.**

In the Lord is our trust, our protection from harm...

**We follow our faithful Lord.**

Come, let us worship the One whom we serve...

**We follow our faithful Lord.**

~ written by Stephen Fearing, and posted on Wild and Precious Life.

\*Hymn #163 "Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice"

#### Call to Confession

Let us speak the truth about ourselves, trusting that God loves us and forgives us, let us pray...

#### Prayer of Confession

**Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. The places where we are tempted to put worldly values before**

**our desire for you, and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

**When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

**When we are tempted to judge others for their lack of understanding and compassion, increase our understanding, that we may be guided by the humility of Christ: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

**When we are tempted to use bribery to influence and control people: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

**When we are tempted to bargain with you, O God, to satisfy our own needs: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

*A time of silence for personal confession*

**Merciful God, save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation. So strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season that we put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did. This we pray in his name. Amen**

~ written by Moira Laidlaw, and posted on Liturgies Online

## Words of Forgiveness

Jesus lived to show us the way,  
suffered to save us,  
Is raised to give us new life

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

Hymn #824 "There is a Quiet Place of Rest" vs 1

## **We Reflect**

### Prayer of Illumination

Creating God, it has been told to us since the very beginning that you are truly the Lord of all that is and ever shall be. You are the God of both the prince and pauper, of feast and famine, of the mighty and the weak — that you do not favor the strong over the powerless.

Remind us of your love as we read the scriptures,  
O God of True Justice.

Open our eyes – open our hearts –  
that we may be strengthened and renewed by your Word.

~ written by Amy Loving, and posted on The Worship Closet

Reading from the Gospel of Luke 4:1-13

A time for Children and the Young in heart

SERMON

\*Hymn #783 "When We Are Tested"

## **We Respond**

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is **to Know, Love, and Serve God**

### Offertory Invitation

*Musical Meditation*

### Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God our refuge,  
you provide all things for those who wait upon you.  
We present these offerings to you as signs of our trust,  
knowing that your angels guard all our ways.  
Show us your salvation, today and forever,  
we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Submitted to Liturgy Link by Rev. Nathan Williams,  
Echo Hill Presbyterian Church, Marion, IA

(Many thanks to all who contribute to the mission and ministry of our church in offering plates during worship and by electronic giving throughout the month).

### Prayers of God's People (sharing of Joys and Concerns)

Lord, in your mercy/with thanksgiving, **Hear our prayer.**

### The Lord's Prayer

## **We Are Sent**

\*Hymn #166 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

### \*Charge and Benediction

We go now to live in the spirit of our baptism,

even when we are led into wild and hard places.  
With repentance and trust, let us give ourselves to God,  
and with fasting and prayer,  
strengthening ourselves against the ways of the tempter.

May God enfold us in your tender and lasting love.  
May Christ be beside us in times of struggle.  
May the Spirit guide us back to the path whenever we  
stray, that we may keep the covenant.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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### \*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you!

#### **And also with you.**

*(We invite you to offer a sign of peace to those around you and as you gather for fellowship. We remind you to ask what folks feel comfortable with...a verbal greeting, a handshake or fist bump, etc. Do not assume.)*

### POSTLUDE

**\*Indicates, please stand in body or spirit.**

*All songs not from Glory to God are used by permission of CCLI #1124594*