

The First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024

9:00 a.m.

+ Indicates those times when all who are able may stand.
Bold indicates congregational response.

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude "Glory to His Name" Ritter

Call to Worship *(Adapted from Psalm 1)*

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers.

Their delight is in the way of the Lord, and on it they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they thrive.

As Lent begins, we join in an ancient tradition.

Through fasting, self-discipline, and other Lenten practices, we make more room in our lives, allowing God's grace to enter in.

Let us worship God!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of sojourners and wanderers, as we begin our Lenten journey, remind us again and again, that it is you, dear Christ, that we follow. Guide us, lead us, and sustain us on our journey. During this season of reflection and discipline, may you instill a new awareness and appreciation of your loving presence in our lives. Grant us the patience and perseverance we need for each day, so that we may find rest and peace every night. In your holy name, we pray, Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Psalm 1 CEB

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 358 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess that we are lost and we do not know the way. Year after year, we follow what seems familiar. And just as a rutted-out groove wears away a tire, so too has the sin in our life worn us thin. O Christ, help us fill in the worn-out paths of injustice so that we might find a new way forward. Renew us with childlike wonder; excited and ready to return to your path as we prepare for your kingdom. Christ in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Words of Grace

In the Gospels, the disciples often do not understand what Jesus is doing, they mess up again and again, they say the wrong thing, they quarrel and squabble all day long, and yet Jesus keeps them close. For Jesus will always invite you back to the path of justice and peace. In the name of Jesus, our Lord, your sins are forgiven.

Praise be to God! Amen.

Giving from Our Hearts



It is the generosity of the friends and members of this church which supports this ministry. Over 95% of our budget is directly supported through our offering. While the ministry at Zion is sustained by more than dollars and cents, the monetary giving is vital to the work we do. We give thanks for all who have supported Zion over the years. For those contributing financially: There is an offering plate just outside the sanctuary or you can donate online through the online giving button at zionunion.org.

+ Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

+ Prayer of Dedication

God of every blessing, we give generously of our time, our talent, and our treasure, that you might instill within us a generous heart. Bless these gifts for the benefit of your kin-dom throughout the world. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Mark 2:23-3:12 CEB

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

Special Music

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Zion Ringers

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 560 *“I Love to Tell the Story”*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

“Praise Ye the Father”

Gounod

We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.

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Zion United Church of Christ
Union, Missouri