

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla  
Worship Service for the First Sunday in Lent**

*February 26, 2023*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* - Larry Shackley

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *Blessings and Honor* - Terry Osman

**Introit #757:** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* vs. 1

**Call to Worship**

For forty days and forty nights,

**led by the Spirit, Christ fasted in the wilderness.**

For forty days and forty nights,

**we prepare ourselves to meet the crucified and risen Christ.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #664:** *Morning Has Broken* (please stand)

**Call to Confession**

When we stay silent, when we do not acknowledge what we need to change, we waste away.

**Our guilt turns into shame that eats away at us like a poison.**

God calls us to repent and be healed;

**let us turn to God.**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful One, we are so easily tempted. We turn away from your word so quickly. We seek anything that claims to save us from discomfort, inconvenience, pain, fear, and emptiness. But these are false idols, dissolving in the wind. You are our true hope and salvation, our hiding place, our guide, our guardian. We confess our transgressions to you: forgive our sins.**

## **Declaration of Pardon**

Be glad in the Lord!

## **Rejoice!**

God does not count our sins against us, but offers us a free gift of righteousness.

## **Thanks be to God!**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## **Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Kyrie Eleison/Lord, Have Mercy #577:** *(please stand)*

**Anthem:** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* Philip WJ Stopford

## **Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.**

## **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.* Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to Presbytery leadership, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future.

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior who taught us to pray:

**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**

**Hymn #459:** *O Word of God Incarnate* (seated)

## **Prayer for Illumination:**

**Merciful God, your Word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Scriptures for the Day**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Genesis 2:15 – 17, 3:1 – 7

**Epistle Lesson:** Romans 5:12 - 19

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 4:1 – 11

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** “Something You Can Hang On the Wall”

Susan Murray

**Affirmation of Faith** Adapted from the Confession of 1967

**The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes the evil in people as sin in the sight of God. In sin, people claim mastery of their own lives, turn against God and each other, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation. But God’s love never changes. Against all who oppose the divine will, God expresses love in wrath. In the same love, God bore judgment and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring all people to repentance and new life.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

(please stand)

**Offering #709:** *God, We Honor You*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**God of good gifts, receive these and all of our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Through the grace of God we have gifts in abundance and pour them out like perfume from a flask, not for our sakes, but to worship the One who lavishes love on the world.  
Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #167:** *Forty Days and Forty Nights* vs 1, 2, 4, 5 (stand)

**Benediction:**

(remain standing)

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude:** *In Joyful Praise* - David Lasky

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Jeff Sandquist and Lorie Francis. Worship led by Carol Bennett and sermon provided by Susan Murray.*

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