

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025

Pre-Service Music: *Tell It to Jesus* - Shelton Ridge Love

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *Dark Mystery* – John Turner

Introit: *Here am I Lord* Timothy Valentine

Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day
(Psalm 91)

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, say to the Lord:

My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.

For God will protect us from evil and commands angels to guard us in all our ways.

God rescues those who love God and is present with us in trouble.

God answers when we cry out and reveals our salvation to us.

Let us worship God!

Prayer of the Day

Mighty God, you heard the cries of your people and rescued them from the hand of their oppressors. You cared for them in the wilderness. In the life of Christ, you experienced that wilderness yourself. As we journey through our own wilderness, we give thanks that your Spirit sustains us and your love guides us. Amen.

Opening Hymn #166: *Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days* (stand)

Call to Confession

The journey of life inevitably leads to wilderness, times marked by guilt, frustration, and the sense that we are not in the right place. But even in the wilderness, God is with us. Even in the wilderness, God's mercy is sure.

Prayer of Confession

As Lent unfolds before us, great God, we see how far we have to go to Jerusalem. The road is long, our sins are many, and our burdens are heavy. We can't imagine new life, Easter life, because our current lives are filled with bad choices and failed efforts. Meet us in our weakness. Take up our sins. Ease our burdens. Carry us on the way. Bring us to Jerusalem, at last. Show us a love that is stronger than death, a love no tomb can hold.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Walking this earth, facing temptation, defeating sin, Jesus has done for us what we could never do for ourselves. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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: *Do Not Be Afraid* Philip Stopford

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

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus.

God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We join together in the prayer that Jesus taught his followers 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 #783: *When We are Tested* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1 - 11

Epistle Lesson: Romans 10:8b - 13

Gospel Lesson: Luke 4:1 – 13

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: “The Temptation of Christ”

Ming Leu

Affirmation

**For each step that we might take
Be our guide, O Lord of life
For each load that we might bear
Be our strength, O Lord of life
For each mountain we might face
Be our power, O Lord of life
For each river that might impede
Be our safety, O Lord of life
For each place where we might rest
Be our peace, O Lord of life
For each sunrise and sunset
Be our joy, O Lord of life**

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings: (please be seated)

Offering #712: *As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought*
(verse 1)

Prayer of Dedication: John Birch-www.faithandworship.com

Help us to be generous givers, dear Lord, both of our money and our lives, that we might make a difference in this town. We ask this through your son, our Savior Jesus Christ who gave all that he was that we might know life in all its fullness. Amen.

Sending Hymn #712: *As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought* (vv. 2, 3) (stand)

Charge and Benediction:

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

Postlude: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* – Mary McDonald

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