



*An Open & Affirming, Creation Justice
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

9 March 2025 – 10:30 AM
First Sunday in Lent

*indicates the congregation is invited to stand.
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

PRELUDE *Prelude in C Minor* Imant Raminsh
Vlada Volkova-Moran, organist

WELCOME The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

*GATHERING SONG Navajo Traditional

**Now I walk in beauty.
Beauty is before me.
Beauty is behind me, above and below me.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP Stewart Jenkins, liturgist

One: Gather to share stories of faith; rejoice in the goodness of our loving God.
All: Through all our days, God walks with us.
One: Worship the one who gives and sustains life; sing praises to the one who is our refuge.
All: There is no place we can go where God is not. God's promises hold true.
One: Sing with the God who frees us into new life.
All: We call out to God, expecting to be heard; we listen, knowing there is truth to be received.

*HYMN 38 [hymn sheet] *"Lift Up Your Hearts!"* (stanzas 1-3) WOODLANDS

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS (February & March)

*GREETING OF PEACE

SCRIPTURE *Luke 4:1-13* Stewart Jenkins

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written,

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and
"On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

ANTHEM *The Peace of Wild Things* Wendell Berry/Imant Raminsh
Chancel Choir • Cheryl Anderson, director

SERMON *Telling the Truth* Pastor Dave

RESPONSE Songs & Prayers from Taizé

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.

Nada te turbe, nada te espante. Quien a Dios tiene nada le falta.

Nada te turbe, nada te espante. Solo Dios basta.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSiON AND RENEWAL

One: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

All: **Let us trust in God: faithful and just and forgiving.**

One: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us call to mind the truth of our lives, and where we are broken let us seek healing and renewal in God's mercy.

All: **Dear God, we ask you to forgive us and help us. We do things we shouldn't, and we fail to do what we know is good. We do not always tell the truth. We are not always kind. And often we do not really believe that love is better than selfishness and hate. Help us to know that we are all your children, and to trust that love is the way you care for us and would have us care for others. Help us to keep faith in Jesus, and to live as he lived, so that we may live forever with you.** (silent meditation)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH ...concluding with A Prayer in the Spirit of Jesus

Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:

May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.

May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.

And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.

Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.

OFFERTORY www.PeaceUnited.org/Giving 
Invitation – A Mission Moment
Offertory Music "For He Shall Give His Angels" Felix Mendelssohn

*COVENANT

We covenant with God and with each other:

to walk together in all God's ways as the Holy is revealed to us;

to give ourselves freely and without reserve to Jesus' ministry in this church;

to celebrate through worship God's amazing gifts of unity and diversity;

to take up Christ's mission around the world, striving for justice and peace;

to care for the earth and all her creatures, reconciling ourselves to them in love;

for God gives immeasurable grace into all life and every life.

*HYMN 450 [hymn sheet] *O for a Closer Bond with God* BEATITUDO

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* Calvin Taylor

Wednesday evenings in Lent, March 12 through April 9, join us for services of Reconciliation and Healing in the sanctuary, 7 to 7:59pm. Our gatherings will be informed by the wisdom of Rabbi Sharon Brous and her 2024 book, *The Amen Effect* (Avery/Penguin Random House) which you are encouraged to read. It's readily available in local bookstores and online through bookshop.org.

“Lift Up Your Hearts!”

Henry M. Butler, 1881; alt.

Unison

1 “Lift up your hearts!” We lift them up to you,
 2 A - bove the lev - el of the for - mer years,
 3 Lift ev - ery gift that God to us has given;

for in your pres - ence it is right to do;
 the mire of sin, the weight of guilt - y fears,
 low lies the best till blessed by God in heaven;

“Lift up your hearts!” In joy to - geth - er laud,
 The mist of doubt, the blight of love's de - cay,
 Low lie the bound - ing heart, the teem - ing brain,

“We lift them up, we lift them up to God.”
 O God of life, lift all our hearts to - day!
 till, once more, they re - turn to God a - gain.

*This text is a meditation written for students at Harrow School, England. It is based on a liturgical dialogue, *Sursum Corda*, used since the third century in the Eastern and Western church to introduce the eucharistēō or prayer of consecration.*

Tune: WOODLANDS 10.10.10.10.
 Walter Greatorex, 1916

O for a Closer Bond with God

450

William Cowper, 1769; alt.

Ps. 119:105; Isa. 30:18-22



1 O for a clos - er bond with God,
2 Where is the bless - ed - ness we knew
3 Re - turn, O ho - ly Dove, re - turn,
4 The dear - est i - dols we have known,
5 So shall our bond be close with God,



a calm and heav - enly frame, A light to shine up -
when first our hearts were stirred? Where is the soul - re -
sweet mes - sen - ger of peace! For - give our sins and
as we our ways pur - sue; Help us to tear them
calm and se - rene our frame; So pur - er light shall



on the road that leads us to the Lamb!
fresh - ing view of Je - sus Christ, the Word?
help us learn in Christ to find re - lease.
from your throne, and wor - ship on - ly you.
mark the road that leads us to the Lamb!



This hymn was written during the illness of William Cowper's dear friend, Mary Unwin. Cowper wrote poetry and, together with John Newton, published Olney Hymns. John B. Dykes, organist and Church of England priest, wrote many hymn tunes.

Tune: BEATITUDO C.M.
John B. Dykes, 1875