

Date: February 18, 2024

1st Lent

Prayer of Preparation

Deborah Ann Belka

When in the Wilderness

It gets lonely, in the wilderness it feels lifeless cold and treacherous. But, when God takes us, into the wilderness He wants us with Him to get down to business. It's easy to get lost, in the wilderness it can be discouraging in the land of bitterness. But, when we trust God, in the wilderness He'll walk us through our insecurity. It can be very dangerous; in the wilderness it can be desolate in the land of hopelessness. But, when God sends us, into the wilderness . . . it's so He can heal us of our stubbornness!

Gathering in the Presence of God

**Please stand as able, in body or in spirit*

Gathering Music

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

arr. C. E. Walz

Welcome

Minute for Mission

MOC

Jim Miller

SPV Bikes/Helmets/Locks Drive

***Call to Worship** (responsively)

Liturgist

When our days hurt like a wilderness, empty of nourishment, deserted of hope;

You call to us with your Spirit, comforting and sustaining us.

If all around us, shadows loom, and our resolve is tested, our faith challenged;

You bless us with your presence, strengthening our hearts each day.

Whenever our troubles appear unyielding, the pain unrelenting in our world;

You abide unyielding by our side, your love is unrelenting in our lives.

*Hymn

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

GTG 166

Confessing Our Separation from God (unison)

Liturgist

God of the Wilderness, we come to You searching for help in our wilderness times. Guide us to find our way when we are lost. Help us to know Your presence when we feel alone. Keep us to Your promises when we face despair. Hold us to Your love when we face temptation. Lead us on this journey of faith into a deeper relationship with You, and to know ourselves more fully in the way You know each of us. Lead us, God of the Wilderness, to the wellspring of life found in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Rick Founds

Jesus, Draw Me Close

Jesus, draw me close; Closer, Lord, to You.

Let the world around me fade away.

Jesus, draw me close;

Closer, Lord, to You.

For I desire to worship and obey.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

We Hear God's Word

Prayer of Illumination

Liturgist

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:9-15

Liturgist

Source: New International Version

Anthem

You'll Never Walk Alone

Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein

Soloist: Tina Marie Casamento

Reflection

Wilderness

We Respond to God's Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

I Believe in Jesus

Marc Nelson

**Prayers of the People of God: Joys and Hopes &
The Lord's Prayer**

Presentation of Prayer Shawls

Bonnie Ekas

Mimi McKennan & Nada Grimes

The Act of Gratitude

Offertory

Forty Days and Forty Nights (v. 1, 4, 5)

GTG 167

***Doxology: An Expression of Faith to God**

G. W. Dub Shepherd

Tune: Old Hundredth

Louis Bourgeois

Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

Liturgist

Holy God, we bring our tithes and offerings understanding that on the journey in Lent, we can't avoid or detour around the wilderness. It is essential that we hear Jesus call us to repentance! Bless our gifts for your unfinished kingdom work. Remind us, as we worship here, that this

redemption of our lives did not come without a price; without our own repentance, we can miss the enormity of the gift Jesus gave. Knowing we cannot earn this redemption and forgiveness, this wiping clean of our ledger, we can only hope to reflect such grace and compassion in our encounters with others. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

We Follow God's Word into the World

***Hymn** *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* GTG 775

***Benediction**

Postlude *Jesus, Our Divine Companion* arr. Roger Summers

Next Week's Liturgist: Dave Norton

WORSHIP TEAM

Rev. Eddie Jusino

Liturgist: Clare MacDonald

Ushers: Diana Green and Karen Palermo

Music: Judy Moore

Soloist: Tina Marie Casamento

The Westminster Choir

A/V Tech: Melissa Schrock and Blue Jade

FEBRUARY 18 – MARCH 3 - EASTER LILY SALE – Order forms are in the narthex. Please complete an order form and \$20 payment and insert in envelope. Forms and \$20 payment due by March 3.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 @ 6pm – Expressions of Joy Harp Ensemble

Join us for this annual concert featuring five harpists - Joy Slavens' Ensemble. Free will offering.

WEDNESDAYS, FEB. 21-28; MARCH 6, 13 AND 20 @10-11:15am - Lenten Book Study – Final Words from the Cross .

CLASS SCHEDULE

3. Feb. Wednesday 21 - Today, You Will Be With Me in Paradise pp.34-50
4. Feb. Wednesday 28 - Behold Your Son...Behold Your Mother pp.51-63
5. March, Wednesday 6 - My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me pp.64-82
6. March, Wednesday 13 - I Thirst and It is Finished pp.83-116
7. March, Wednesday 20 -Postscript: The Words After That pp.117-128

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 – Worship @10am. MOC (Mission Outreach)

invites you to meet our guests, Jeannine White and Adrienne Scott who will present "A Visit to Butoke," and share information about mission outreach efforts at the MOC Mission Luncheon, following worship in the fellowship hall.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 @10am – Sunday Service with Communion and Guest Speaker: Kim Leisey, Executive Director CAMP (Create A More

Positive) Rehoboth Community. Ms. Leisey will present a

Faith Reflection: "Rehoboth, An Open Space"

Scripture Passage: Matthew 5:1-12

Prior to CAMP Rehoboth Kim worked as an educator and administrator in higher education and holds a doctorate in Human Development. Kim and her spouse, Kathy, live in Lewes, Delaware. Kim plays the cello with the Southern Delaware Orchestra and loves to kayak, hike, sail and bike.

*Interesting Fact: While in high school she served as an elder in her church, The Community Presbyterian Church in Ringwood, New Jersey

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Mourning/Grief

Mimi McKennan and Dana Grimes – grieving the passing of Nannette Grimes from this life to “More Life” (Feb. 8). Condolences can be sent to 105 Buena Vista Street, Dewey Beach, DE 19971

Leslie Marsh, her husband Charlie

Bob Book, his mother Linda

The Cottingham Family – grieving the passing of their mother, Mrs. Pauline Cottingham. Funeral Service is on Friday, Feb. 23 at Westminster; Visitation from 10 – 10:45am; Service at 11am. Reception following at Big Fish Grill, 20298 Coastal Highway, Rehoboth Beach, DE. Condolences can be sent to 217 Norfolk Street, Rehoboth Beach, DE 10071.

Surgery and Post-Surgery:

Jennifer (John Hawkins daughter – spinal surgery)

Sally Stokes – foot surgery

Mary Boyer (Sandra Hrin’s sister -esophagus surgery_

Mike Hrin – (Bill Hrin’s brother) - quadruple bypass

Judy McDyer – gall bladder

Mary Beth Adair

Leslie Trout (Adele Trout’s daughter) – spinal surgery

Health Concerns/Rehabilitation

Pat Dukes, RSV

Hull McLean debridement