

MARCH 29, 2020
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful - Berthier

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.*

CALL to WORSHIP

One: God we come to you as we are,

All: We come bearing our souls and awaiting your response.

One: Lord we wait in hope for you,

All: We know that you promise to hear and provide.

One: Spirit we ask for you to breathe new life into us,

All: Praise the Lord! Let us worship the God together!

OPENING PRAYER — inspired by John O'Donohue's *Blessing For a New Home*

One: May this space shelter your life. When you come to this place, may all the weight of the world fall from your shoulders.

All: May my heart be tranquil here, blessed by peace the world cannot give.

One: May this be a safe place of understanding and acceptance:

All: Where I can be as I am, without the need of any mask of pretense or image.

One: May this be a place of discovery, where the possibilities that sleep in the clay of your soul can emerge.

All: To deepen and refine my vision for all that is yet to come to birth.

One: Though the journey be difficult and slow,

All: May this be a place where patience of spirit is prized and the sight of the destination is never lost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING — *Matthew 4:1-11*

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ ⁴ But he answered,

‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

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

⁷ Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹ and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”’

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

PAUSE *for* PRAYER

At this time, we invite you to take out a piece of paper and a pen, or talk with the people you are worshipping with today, and answer at least one of the following questions as we prepare to turn to God in prayer.

- 1) What are you grieving today in the midst of the wilderness?
- 2) What unknown fills you with the most fear and discomfort in the wilderness?
- 3) What seeds do you think God is planting now that you pray will one day bloom?

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Rachel Rhodes – Senior Pastor

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla – Associate Pastor

Tim Carpenter - Director of Music

Mark Shockey – Pianist

Carol Carpenter, Craig Tipton, Nancy & Seth McHenry – Choir

Damon Miller – Communications Coordinator