First Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2017

Welcome Ray: including some of what was formerly included in “Words of Welcome, “ and will refer folks to the contact cards in their programs. Other information will be included in a statement in the bulletin.

Bell Rings At the end of Ray’s comments, the bell will ring at least 10 times.

Prelude Sean: Begins prelude on the 10th ring of the bell

\*Call to Worship Liturgist:   
Read Call to Worship the back of the sanctuary, before processional begins.

Call to Worship (Psalm 32)

We come together to offer our faithful prayers to you, Creator God.

We come in times of joy or distress, for here we know

that the rush of mighty waters shall not reach us,

for in this place you surround us with glad cries of deliverance

in all the ways we need. Come, let us worship God together.

Processional Hymn

The liturgist moves to the chancel and stands at the lectern. The liturgist sits on the chancel or on the side of the chancel.

The pastor moves to the center pew and stands.

Unison Prayer Liturgist: Please be seated.

The liturgist remains at the lectern, reading the Unison Prayer

**God, Amazing God…**

**you send us out into the world**

**full of your Holy Spirit.**

**Send that Spirit now, as we enter these days of Lent.**

**Nourish us with your grace and deliverance**

**from those things that distract us from others.**

**Forgive us when we miss the needs of others**

**or forget your presence in our lives, assuring us**

**and that we need not be afraid. Ever.**

Silence Liturgist is seated. Silence remains until Ray moves to the center lectern.

Ray will move to the center lectern and end the silence with the Assurance of Pardon.

Assurance of Pardon Ray

We know that your steadfast love never fails

and that your forgiveness was received long ago

surpassed only by your love for us. Let us express our gratitude

by forgiving and loving others as best we can

and more with your help.

Amen.

Passing of the Peace: Ray will offer a Sign of Peace and then ask the congregation to stand, saying…let us stand and offer one another a sign of peace.

The Passing of the Peace continues until Ray returns to his seat.

Gospel Reading Liturgist: Matthew 4:1-11 MSG

Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Tempter was ready to give it. Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, which the Tempter took advantage of in the first test: “Since you are God’s Beloved, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread.”

Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God’s mouth.”

For the second test the Tempter took him to the Holy City. He sat him on top of the Temple and said, “Since you are God’s Beloved, jump.” The Tempter goaded him by quoting Psalm 91: “God has placed you in the care of angels. They will catch you so that you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone.”

Jesus countered with another citation from Deuteronomy: “Don’t you dare test your God.”

For the third test, the Tempter took him to the peak of a huge mountain. The Tempter gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth’s kingoms, how glorious they all were. Then The Tempter said, “They’re yours—lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they’re yours.”

Jesus’ refusal was curt: “Beat it, Tempter!” Jesus backed the rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God, and only the Lord your God. Serve God with absolute single-heartedness.”

The Test was over. The Tempter left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus’ needs.

Silence Ray will break the silence for the Children’s Message

Children’s Message Ray

Musical Praise

Prayers for Ourselves   
and Others Liturgist

Let Us Pray Ray

The Lord’s Prayer Ray

Musical Praise

Invitation to Give Liturgist

Offertory Liturgist:

With your gifts, we are able to support our ministry and the wider missions of our church, while staffing for our own needs and managing our facilities and finances. As with all congregations in the United Church of Christ, we the depend on the voluntary giving of our members and friends. Thank you for the generosity of all your gifts to Sayville Congregation United Church of Christ. We are grateful to you all. The offering plate will now be collected and received.

\*Doxology

Invitation to the Table Ray

Leader: **Jesus said:**

**I am the bread of life.**

**You who come to me shall not hunger;**

**You who believe in me**

**Shall never thirst.**

People: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food,

we come to this table to know the risen Christ

in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

Communion Prayer

Leader: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

People: **Holy, holy, holy God**

**of love and majesty,**

**the whole universe speaks of your glory,**

**O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Sharing of the Elements:

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Responses:

*The Bread of Life*

*The Cup of Blessing*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction and Sending Forth

Hymn

Choral Blessing

Postlude