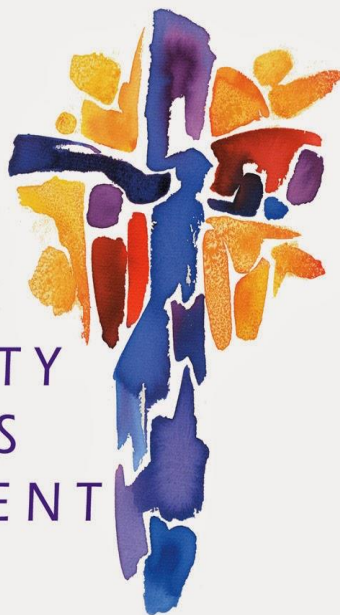


THE
FORTY
DAYS
of LENT



RETURN
to the
LORD
YOUR
GOD



No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

1 March 2020

1st Sunday of Lent

Into the Desert

Gathering Music

Jim Todd

Welcome/Announcements

Reid Orion

Prelude

Jim Todd

Centering Moment

Rev. Izzy Harbin

“Convenience vs Conviction”

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Izzy Harbin

One: Please join me in the lighting of the Christ Candle

All: We light this Christ candle as a reminder that we are bound by our convictions and that our convictions require discipline. Open our hearts, O Christ, to your plan for our lives, and the convictions necessary to live with integrity.

Call to Worship *(Stand)*

Reid Orion

One: God, you have called us to follow Jesus into the dry places; it is not convenient, but it does require conviction.

All: We are fearful of the dry places, of what we might find in the desert of our souls. God, reveal to us the work that must be done in these places and let us not walk away from our conviction to be the best version of ourselves that we can be.

One: God, our lives are complicated, and we are faced with difficult challenges every day. We turn to those things that are convenient because it makes our lives easier, but you are showing us today that what is convenient does not have the power to sustain us.

All: We want to be sustained through all of life's circumstances so that we become resilient to the ways of this world. We measure success by how well we succeed, but if our successes are based on the easiest of routes, then how resilient are we? When turmoil strikes, to whom do we turn?

One: God, you are our sustainer and perfecter; the one who molds us and shapes us into the person you have called us to be. We give ourselves over to you this morning as individuals who are willing to live by our convictions rather than ease through life one convenience at a time.

Opening Prayer (*Remain Standing*)

Reid Orion

One: Please pray with me...

All: God of grace and mercy, challenge us this morning to let go of a life of convenience in order to embrace a life of conviction. Give us the strength and the courage to stand up for what is right and good, the ability to live our lives with integrity, and to not walk in fear. You are our sustenance; you are all that we need to be transformed into beings of light who can share the good news of your kingdom to all we encounter.

In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray.

Amen.

Opening Hymn (*Remain Standing*)

No. 664

"Thy Word"

Sing All Verses

New Testament Reading

Rev. Izzy Harbin

"Matthew 4:1-4"

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

One: May these words inspire us to live with purpose.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Izzy Harbin

“What feeds us? Convenience or Conviction?”

Hymn

No. 484

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

Sing 1x through

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Izzy Harbin

Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer

One: Now let us pray together:

All: Our Creator, the touchstone of our existence, we are humbled by the vastness of your creation, and we praise you above all the heavens. We ask for nothing in return for the life you have given us, only that we may learn to serve others as others have served us. We know that you walk with us as we navigate this world and its many difficulties. Help us to not be adversely affected by the world around us; but instead, to walk in love and hope, rather than in hatred and fear. You are our rock; you are the power from which we draw, not for some distant time and place, but for this moment.

Amen.

Invitation to Sharing

Rev. Izzy Harbin

God you have called us to not only be your hands and feet to the world, but to live as examples of your fidelity and love. We are willing to walk in the desert spaces this morning because we want to be the best versions of ourselves...then we have something of value to pass along to others.

Let us gather our gifts and present them to God with joy and thanksgiving.

Offertory

Jim Todd

Offertory Response (*Stand*)

No. 359

“Give Thanks”

Sing 1x through

Offertory Prayer (*Remain Standing*)

Rev. Izzy Harbin

One: Please pray with me:

All: God of the desert places, we pray your blessings on these gifts that they may be used to fulfill your desires for a more just kingdom here on earth. We are grateful that we can play a role in bringing about your kingdom here on earth, and that by doing our own work, we are then useful to you. May our lives be made whole and filled with you alone.

In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray.

Amen.

Closing Hymn (*Remain Standing*)

No. 22

“Let All Things Now Living”

Sing Verse 1

Benediction

Rev. Izzy Harbin

Postlude

Jim Todd

