

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
**February 21, 2021**  
**First Sunday in Lent**

Gathering Words

*"This is the Day"*

Unison Welcome

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

Announcements

Mission Moment

Passing of the Peace

*"The peace of Christ be with you"*

*"And also with you"*

Prelude

Solemn Declaration

Call to Worship

*from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

From water to wilderness:

**God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.**

On stone and in hearts:

**God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.**

From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

**God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.**

We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

**for where he is, we would be also.**

Musical Meditation

Call to Confession

*from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

God's rainbow has been hung in the clouds—a unilateral disarmament in spite of our sin.

God remains faithful to the covenant of steadfast love, even when we are unfaithful.

Without fear, then, we confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession

*from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

**God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you set before us.**

**Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil in its many guises, and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near. In covenantal love, remember us, we pray, and be for us, once more and always, an ark of safety and new life. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Kyrie (spoken rather than sung)

Hymnal Companion C-4

Words of Assurance

*from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

As Noah and his family were brought safely through the flood onto dry ground, so in baptismal waters we are brought from death into new life in Christ. Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, forgives us and reconciles us and all things in heaven and on earth. Thanks be to God for this good news!

Glory Be to the Father #704 (spoken rather than sung)

Scripture Reading

Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22

Children's Sermon

Lisa Frantz

Special Music

*"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"*  
Gary Crum and Henry Hopper – clarinet duet

arr. William H. Doane

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:9-15

Sermon

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

Musical Meditation

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (debts)

Musical Meditation

Invitation to Giving

Commission & Benediction

*from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

As Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness, so we will spend forty days in this season of Lent. Consider, children of the covenant, the faithfulness of God, and what it means to be baptized into Christ. Live each day proclaiming the good news, in word and deed, that God is with us and the kingdom is near.

Postlude

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**Special Thanks** to everyone who made our worship possible this morning.

If you are ill, have a temperature, or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, we respectfully ask that you remain at home.

Join us for our **Virtual Fellowship Time** this afternoon at 2 pm on Zoom. Our meeting ID is 956-4820-9436 and passcode is 755909. The direct link is [here](#).

### **Worship Resources:**

Prayers have been reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion* © 2013.