

Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church
March 1, 2020
First Sunday of Lent

God's boundaries are wise and protective. When we push through them, surrendering to temptation, our vulnerabilities are exposed. Show us, Jesus, through fasting and Scripture, how we can grow stronger through temptation and remain true to the calling of God in our lives.

STS 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness

Call to Worship

Leader: Eternal God, you call beloved daughters and sons.

People: We praise you for creating us and calling us to cultivate your life in the world.

(L): Eternal God, you call our name in the garden.

(P): We come to worship, acknowledging our vulnerabilities and temptations.

(L): Eternal God, you are our hiding place, where forgiveness and mercy encircle us.

All: Thanks be to God for the radical grace offered to us through Jesus Christ.

We share signs of peace with one another

Announcements/Sharing Time

STS 201

Offering

HWB 553 I am weak and I need thy strength

Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Matthew 4:1-11

Message "Show us your hiding place in the thick of temptation"

Confession

(L): God calls to us, "Where are you?"

(P): We, like Adam, hide in the garden, hoping God does not come looking for us.

(L): God asks, "What have you done?"

(P): We, like Eve, say, "The devil made me do it, masking our shame."

(L): Our choices have consequences.

(P): I confess I have hidden and denied my sin. When I refuse to admit my wrongs, I am miserable.

(SILENCE)

(ALL): We confess...

Ritual of Response

HWB 521 Come, thou fount

Communion

Like us, Jesus knew temptation. He was tempted by hunger, domination over the world, glory, and taking the easy way out. He did not give into temptation so that we may not give in to temptation. Come, eat this bread and drink this cup, and find strength once more in Jesus.

STS 49 I will come to you in the silence
We extinguish a candle

Sending

May God remind you of your belovedness. May Christ be by your side in times of struggle. May the Spirit guide you back to the path when you are tempted. Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Announcements

Today- movie "The Bible" showing at the Ensz's after worship. Let them know if you're coming

Tomorrow- Peace and Prayer group, 7:30 at SMMC

March 22- All are invited to Beth's apartment for birthday treats following worship