



An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All
Congregation of the United Church of Christ

22 February 2026 – 10:30 AM
First Sunday in Lent

*indicates the congregation is invited to stand.
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

PRELUDE	“O Mensch, bewein’ dein’ Sünde groß”, BWV 622 Vlada Volkova-Moran, organist	J. S. Bach
WELCOME		The Rev. David Pattee, pastor
*CALL TO WORSHIP	in dialogue with <i>Psalm 25</i>	Jim Howley, liturgist
	One: To you, O God, I lift up my soul. All: In you I trust, O God, let me not be put to shame. One: Make me to know your ways. All: Lead me, for you are the way of salvation. One: Remember me in your mercy, O God, and not according to my transgressions. All: God leads the humble in what is right, in steadfast love and faithfulness.	
*HYMN 433 [hymn sheet]	<i>In the Bulb There Is a Flower</i>	PROMISE
WORD MADE PLAIN	<u>children are invited to gather in front with Pastor Dave</u>	
	One: Brothers and sisters, let us call to mind the truth of our lives, and where we are broken or alienated let us seek healing and renewal in God’s mercy. All: Merciful God, source of all goodness, we trust that you love us and that you call us to the fullness of life, but around and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us short of true happiness; our progress does not satisfy. This prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing. Forgive our neglect of your Word, our acceptance of others’ misery, and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us. Renew and guide us in the way of Jesus, we pray...	
ANTHEM	“Kyrie” from <i>Requiem</i> CHANCEL CHOIR • Cheryl Anderson, director <i>Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.</i>	Maurice Duruflé
*WORDS OF ASSURANCE		
*GREETING OF PEACE		
SCRIPTURE	<i>Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7</i>	Jim Howley
	The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, for God knows that when you	

eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

RESPONSE

Songs & Prayers from Taizé

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward 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.’ ”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 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.’ ”

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

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.’ ”

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

SERMON

Deciding

Pastor Dave

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

...concluding with A Prayer in the Spirit of Jesus

Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:

May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.

May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.

And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.

Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.

OFFERTORY

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree



Elizabeth Poston

*COVENANT

We covenant with God and with each other:

to walk together in all God’s ways as the Holy is revealed to us;

to give ourselves freely and without reserve to Jesus’ ministry in this church;

to celebrate through worship God’s amazing gifts of unity and diversity;

to take up Christ’s mission around the world, striving for justice and peace;

to care for the earth and all her creatures, reconciling ourselves to them in love;

for God gives immeasurable grace into all life and every life.

*HYMN 492 [hymn sheet]

I Would Be True

PEEK

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata d-Moll, Op. 59 No. 5

Max Reger

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Phil. 4:8-9

St. 1, 2, Howard Arnold Walter, 1917

St. 3, anon.; alt.

1 I would be true, for there are those who trust me; I would be
 2 I would be friend of all, the foe, the friend-less; I would be
 3 I would be prayer-ful through each bus-y mo-ment; I would be

pure, for there are those who care; I would be strong, for
 giv-ing, and for-get the gift; I would be hum-ble,
 con-stant-ly in touch with God; I would be tuned to

there is much to suf-fer; I would be brave, for
 for I know my weak-ness; I would look up, and
 sense God's slight-est whis-per; I would have faith to

there is much to dare, I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
 laugh, and love, and live, I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.
 keep the path Christ trod, I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

The first two stanzas of this hymn are from "My Creed," a poem that Howard Walter sent to his mother from Japan, where he taught English before becoming a Congregational minister. Walter died at the age of thirty-five while working for the Y.M.C.A. in India.

Tune: PEEK 11.10.11.10.10.
 Joseph Y. Peek, 1911