Worship on the First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Pastor

Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist

**Prelude** Op. 28, No. 4 by Frédéric Chopin

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship\***

Brothers and sisters, where is our home?

**Our home is in the shelter and shadow of God.**

How is this our refuge?

**God’s angels guard us from evil and threat.**

How can we flourish?

**Staying close to God’s way leads to abundant life.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**God of the covenant, as the forty days of the flood swept away the world’s corruption and brought new beginnings of righteousness and life, so in the saving water of baptism you washed us to be born from above. Open the wellspring of your grace, cleanse our hearts of all that is not worthy, and cause your gift of new life to flourish in us again. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Hymn 110** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

**Prayer of Confession\***

**Gracious God, your love is everlasting. Even after we stray from your path, you beckon us home and embrace us. You draw a wide circle for belonging. We confess that we often revert to a fearful instinct to cut off those who are unfamiliar or distant. Help us to evaluate others based on your heart. When we lean into the values of your kingdom, you expand our worldview to focus on our common humanity. May we welcome our neighbors and we work together for your purposes. Amen.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament** Psalm 91

**New Testament**  Luke 4:1-13

**Sermon** Dr. Rosanna Anderson

**Confession of Faith** (Theological Declaration of Barmen, 3)

**"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body [is] joined and knit together." (Eph 4:15-16)**

**The Christian church is the congregation of the [brothers and sisters] in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord**

**in word and sacrament through the Holy Spirit.**

**As the church of pardoned sinners,**

**it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world,**

**with its faith as with its obedience,**

**with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance.**

**We reject the false doctrine, as though the church were permitted to abandon the form of its message and order**

**to its own pleasure or to changes in prevailing ideological and political convictions.**

**Offertory** “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry” by John Ylvisaker

**Doxology** Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him, all creatures here below.

Praise him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication**

**O Lord, our God, you help us throughout our lives. It is by your faithfulness and generosity that we receive what we need. Today, we are mindful of those who are refugees, those who need a home, and those looking for work. In gratitude, we celebrate the bounty you have given. Receive this offering as our first fruits to bless others through the mission of this congregation. Amen.**

**Hymn 156** “I Love to Tell the Story”

**Sharing Joys and Prayer Concerns**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn 117** “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Church Calendar**

Sunday, March 9 **Worship and Fellowship** 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome to join us for worship onsite or via live stream.

Tuesday, March 11 **Alcoholics Anonymous & Al-Anon** 7:00 p.m.

We are happy to sponsor this group that meets year-round via Zoom. To connect with the facilitator, email [info@finyaa.org](mailto:info@finyaa.org).

Wednesday, March 12 **Bible Study** 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Everyone is invited to participate. We meet in a hybrid format in the church Parlor and via Zoom. We are reading the new book *From Wilderness to Glory: Lent and Easter for Everyone* by N. T. Wright.

Thursday, March 13 **Tots Time** 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

This is a casual time for toddlers and adults to share fellowship.

Saturday, March 15 **Alcoholics Anonymous & Al-Anon** 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 16 **Worship and Fellowship** 10:00 a.m.

Please join us to worship the Lord onsite or via live stream.

**Union Chapel (United Church of Christ)**

**The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Pastor**

Laura Chapman, Director of Operations

Becky Walters, Administrative Assistant

Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist

*“Whoever you are and*

*wherever you are on your faith journey,*

*you are welcome here.”*

A painting of a church

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**Union Chapel**

**(United Church of Christ)**

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**The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson**

March 2, 2025

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