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*Open doors, open hearts, a welcome for all just as you are!*

**First Sunday of Lent February 26, 2023 11:00**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Janet DeWater

For forty days and forty nights,

**our Savior fasted in the wilderness.**

Tempted to turn from God, tempted to turn to power and privilege,

**our Savior resisted.**

Let us follow Jesus through the wilderness this Lent,

**examining our temptations,** **resisting them, and returning to God.**

Let us worship God.

**\*HYMN #30** *O God, in a Mysterious Way* V. 1,2,3

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, as we wander through this wilderness with Jesus, examining all the worldly comforts we turn to during times of stress and struggle, we confess the neglect of our faith. We confess all that we place above you, making idols of money, earthly power, and even food. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our spiritual practices so we can leave this wilderness season more aware of your presence and the ways our faith can sustain us. *(Please pause for a moment of silent prayer…)*

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Hear these words of hope from the gospel of John: “If you continue in my word, you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” Let us open our heart to receive the gift of God’s grace.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

**\*SONG OF RESPONSE #544** *Bless the Lord*

**TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Children: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** Paul Bumgarner

**SCRIPTURE READING**  Matthew 4:1-11

**SERMON**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF** **FAITH**  Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

**\*HYMN #783** *When We Are Tested*  V. 1, 2, 3

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**THE OFFERING**  *Today we receive our monthly special offering for “Daily Change.”*

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology #606**  *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**\*Offertory Prayer**

God of grace, accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude, and bless them to further the ministry of Christ in the world. Amen.

**\*HYMN #166***Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days* V. 1, 3, 4

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE #698** *Take, O Take Me as I Am*  V. 1

**\*POSTLUDE**

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\*Please rise in body or in spirit

**A warm welcome to all this morning!** If you are visiting a special welcome to you! We hope you find the worship service to be a blessing. We invite you to fill out the visitor card located in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate. We would love to get better acquainted, and we invite your participation in the worship, fellowship and mission of this church. If you wish to connect with the pastor please email Janet at [jdewater@fpcmountholly.com](about:blank) or call the church office: 704-827-0521

**Children are always welcome in worship, wiggles, giggles and all!** We value their presence with us as we worship God, knowing that this is how they experience the loving community of Christ and how they learn to worship. We now have a **“Worship and Play”** room available downstairs for children where we are streaming the service and toys are available for those who need a more active space during the service.

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Description automatically generated**The Offering** – The offering to support our ministry and mission is

Gratefully received during the offertory, or your contributions can be

made by using the provided QR code or the Paypal option available

on the church website fpcmountholly.com Thank you.

**Office Hours**

Please call ahead before coming to church to be sure someone is here to let you in.

**Lenten Lunches Begin Next Sunday, March 5** – All are invited to stay after worship on March 5, 12, 19 and 26 for lunch and a brief Lenten study.

**The Mt. Holly Historical Society Black History Month Program** – will be held in our sanctuary on Tuesday, February 28 at 7:00pm. All are welcome to attend!

**Notice of Live Streaming**

Please be aware that we are live streaming our worship service today.

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**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

Pastor Janet DeWater

Administrative Assistant Lizzy Pharr

Director of Music Hanna Lee

Music Worship Leader Jonathan Brackett

Organist

Treasurer Stefanie Faith

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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