

Mt Vernon UMC

GREETINGS¹ ANNOUNCEMENTS BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING OPENING PRAYER²

Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days #269 OT READING - Deuteronomy 26:2*a*,4-11³

Take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the Lord your God is giving you and put them in a basket. The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the Lord your God.

¹ Cover art by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com.

² Written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies, https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/search?q=Luke+4%3A1-13

³ New Revised Standard Version

Then you shall declare before the Lord your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous.

But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor.

Then we cried out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression.

So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders.

He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me."

Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him. Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household.

HYMN - O God Our Help in Ages Past #117
CHILDREN'S SERMON
INTERCESSORY PRAYERS
LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY - #95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

NT READING - Gen 3:14-23 GOSPEL - Luke 4:1-13 SERMON HYMN - I Will Trust in the Lord #464 CONFESSION & PARDON - #12 OFFERING & PEACE HOLY COMMUNION - #17 SENDING⁴

Now let us go from this place of haven God has given to us.

Led by the Spirit, we will go to be with those who are filled with fears, with hopes.

Now let us go from the refuge of the Table where we have tasted the first fruits of grace.

Led by the Spirit, we will go to feed those who hunger for companionship and life.

Now let us go into the world, living out God's reality that there is no distinction between people.

Led by the Spirit, let us go to serve our sisters and brothers who are our true family. Go in peace.

POSTLUDE

God calls Mt Vernon UMC to:

- Love God & neighbor as Jesus taught
- · Learn together of God's love and grace
- · Serve others by using our God given gifts and talents
- Be witnesses of our faith in God through Jesus Christ to all the world!. To learn more, visit facebook.com/MtVChamp

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (217-751-4400, pastor@mtvernon-umc.org).

⁴ Written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies, https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/search?q=Luke+4:1-13