

**Order of Worship
First Sunday in Lent**

February 22, 2026

10:30 AM

Gather

Prelude

“Were You There”

Calvin Taylor

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit “We Are Walking in the Light of the Lord” (*Renew* #288) Jean A. Greif

Praise

Prepare for Call to Worship

****Call to Worship**

Leader: Lord, our breath grows shallow, and we are weary.

People: We cry out to the one true God!

Leader: When our lips are parched, your help is always near.

People: We give thanks for the life-giving presence of our Lord!

Leader: We turn to you in exultation, knowing that through you, all will be well.

**People: You set us free from these earthly chains, giving us love where once there was fear.
Guide our paths, O God, as we walk this way of righteousness to you.**

All: Amen.

Prepare

****Hymn #166**

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

ST FLAVIAN

Lenten Candle Extinguishing Liturgy

Pastor: Today is the first Sunday in the Season of Lent.

This season offers us the opportunity to be more reflective as we journey together with Jesus through the wilderness and beyond.

Leader: As followers of Jesus, we have all experienced times of testing and temptation – times we have felt that we were travelling in the wilderness.

Pastor: As people of faith we confess that in the face of difficult decisions we are sometimes drawn to easy answers and actions that do not demand much of us.

Leader: As we extinguish the first Lenten candle we recall the ways in which we struggle to embody our faith in the actions of our lives.

(1st candle is extinguished).

Pastor: As we watch the smoke rise, we remember that God’s spirit is with us in mysterious and tangible ways. We are reminded that God comforts, encourages and supports us as we face the challenges of following the Way of Jesus.

Leader: Knowing ourselves to be loved and blessed, we raise our voices in song – a prayer to you, O God.

****Congregational Response** “Tree of Life”

*From the dawning of creation, you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation, make us turn to you alone, make us turn to you alone.*

****Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you — *And also with you.*

Listen

Children’s Message

Anthem

“Ride the Chariot”

arr. Wm. H. Smith

Prayer of Illumination

Let us prepare our hearts to draw closer God’s in our prayer: God, we thank you for bringing us through times of hardship and struggle in our past. We ask and trust that you will meet us again today exactly where we are. May we open ourselves to the healing you have for us this day. We are listening for your word, ready to let it shape our lives in holy relationship with you. Amen.

Gospel Reading

John 4:10-14 (NRSV)

Psalm Reflection Video

Psalm 32

Lenten Reading

Exodus 15:22-27 (NRSV)

For the word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us, the people of God say, **“Thanks be to God!”**

Sermon

“ARE WE THERE YET: Getting Free and Staying Free”

Respond

Hymn #65

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

CWM RHONDDA

Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray: God, when we hunger, you feed us. When we thirst, you give us something to drink. And when we are held captive, you free us. Receive our gifts in thankfulness and as a sign of our commitment to do for others what you have done for us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen!

****Doxology**

**Praise God throughout these forty days. Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts, God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Choral Benediction

“Bless His Holy Name” (*Renew #16*)

Andraé Crouch

Benediction

Postlude

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Dale Wood

****Please stand as you are able and comfortable.**

Leaders in and for Worship Today

Preaching Today	Rev. Ronnie Osborn
Liturgist	Carol Virkler
Organist/Pianist	Rev. Bruce Jeffries
Director of Music	J. West
Audio-Visual Technicians	Rob Humfeld, Bill Kennedy
	Karen Neely
Greeter	Cathy Holder
Ushers	Sarah Blanton, Ted Groshong
Childcare Volunteers	Bill and Sue Young

Announcements

AFTER-WORSHIP REFRESHMENTS: Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for light refreshments and fellowship with church friends.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET: Our Transitional Pastor, Ronnie Osborn, has prepared a daily devotional booklet for us to use during Lent. Copies are available on the front table in the lobby.

FIBER FELLOWSHIP: If you enjoy knitting, crocheting, or other needlecrafts, you are invited to join our Fiber Fellowship Small Group which usually meets the fourth Saturday morning of the month. This month, the group will meet next Saturday, February 28, from 10:00 a.m.-Noon in the downstairs Youth Room. You can bring a current project you are working on or start a new one here. If you have questions, please contact Chris Sheriff or Karen Neely for more information.

CHILDCARE DURING WORSHIP: Two caregivers are needed each Sunday morning to provide childcare after the Children's Message for our youngest children. Please consider helping and use the link sent out in the Friday email to sign up. If you have any questions, please speak to Christian Education Chair Cathy Stubbs.

GOOD NEIGHBOR COLLECTION FOR RUSSELL ELEMENTARY: Our Mission and Outreach Committee is asking for your help in providing the staff at Russell with some much-needed winter hygiene items: fragrance-free tissues, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes. With influenza cases especially high this year, the teachers and staff will especially appreciate having these items in their classrooms and offices. A collection box will be in the lobby beginning next Sunday, March 1, through Sunday, March 22.

Committee Meetings This Week:

- Monday, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom – Stewardship and Finance
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom – Technology
- Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. in Rm. 12 – Congregational Care
- Thursday, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom – Mission and Outreach