

**Trinitarian Congregational Church**  
**TakeOut**  
**Lent 1 B**  
**February 21, 2021**

**Bells** <https://youtu.be/-6qZ9A6GFik>

**Announcements**

**Prelude** "Brethren We Have Met to Worship"  
William Moore, 1825. Arr. by John Carter  
<https://youtu.be/Mq9VcqcV8AY>

**Call to Worship**

One: Lift up your souls to the Living God,  
who enters into covenant with us.

**All: We wait on our God with hope.**

**We place our trust in God's steadfast love.**

One: Raise your eyes to behold Jesus Christ,  
who through suffering triumphed over sin and death.

**All: In Jesus Christ we draw near to God.**

**We long for a good heart and a clear conscience.**

One: Open yourselves to the Spirit's presence,  
who guides and empowers all God's people.

**All: The Holy Spirit forms us as Christ's disciples.**

**We seek to live according to God's ways.**

**\*Hymn** Praise My Soul the King of Heaven  
[https://youtu.be/L9X400-8h\\_A](https://youtu.be/L9X400-8h_A)

## Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven 45

D A7 D G D G D G A

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your  
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to all peo - ple  
 3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; all our hopes and  
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him, you be - hold him

Bm Em A7 F# Bm F# Bm B7 Esus E7

trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
 in dis - tress. Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,  
 fears he knows. In his hands he gent - ly bears us,  
 face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;

F#m E A D Bm E7 A D G A7

ev - er - more his prais - es sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 slow to chide and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia!

Bm A7 Bm A G D A7 D

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

WORDS: Henry F Lyte (1793-1847), alt.; para. Psalm 103  
 MUSIC: John Goss (1800-1880)

LAUDA ANIMA  
 8.7.8.7.8.7.



## Gathering Prayer

**Faithful God, we thank you for your saving acts in the past and your mighty promises for the future. We gather to worship you and to honor the covenant you have established with us. When we are perplexed teach us your truth. When we stray, guide us in your way. Minister to us through the struggles of life that we may pursue your greater will and serve your greater purposes. Renew a true and steadfast spirit within us. Amen.**

## Gloria Patri

<https://youtu.be/OLz3R1hnUjs>

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, reign without end. Amen, amen.

## Scriptures

Psalm 25: 1-10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.

<sup>3</sup>Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

<sup>6</sup>Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

<sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

<sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

<sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

<sup>10</sup>All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Mark 1:9-15

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

### **Special Music**

“Jesu, Priceless Treasure”  
by Johann Cruger, arr. by Tedd Smith.  
<https://youtu.be/zs3eXcVLK8E>

### **Sermon**

#### THIS IS A TEST

A friend of mine, who is in her 40’s, is going back to school; and it has not been easy for her. This week she asked me ‘Rosemary, have you cited references during a written exam?’ And it took me back to seminary, where I did that very thing - 42 years ago! I’ve been thinking about that question all week and I realized that tests are still a part of my life. Maybe not written (well, except perhaps for sermons), but every question asked, every statement debated, every stress, challenge, and trouble faced is a test – as my aunt would say ‘in the school of hard knocks’.

That is life, isn’t it? Life seems to be one test after another. So, is it any surprise that Jesus would also find himself tested? Not at all. What is surprising is when, where and how. Today’s passage takes us back to the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, to his baptism and anointing by God to be the Messiah. And in swift movement Jesus walks through the wilderness and out the other side and begins his work announcing ‘the kingdom of God has come near.’

It all seems so simple, but it is not. While Mark is very brief in his comments about Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness, it is a loaded account. And the first thing that stands out is that word ‘tempt’, because we think of the profound temptation to evil, or tempting, enticing sins, or may just be tempting desserts. But Mark never uses the Greek term ‘peirazo’ as ‘temptation’, but rather as ‘test’, the way a teacher tests knowledge or a smith tests metal.

We often say ‘God will never tempt you’, true; but scripture assures us that God tests us - in this way - “Your faith will be like gold that has been tested in a fire. And these trials will prove that your faith is worth much more than gold.” 1 Peter 1:7 CEV. That kind of testing is sound and wise and necessary. Nothing could be worse than an unsound Messiah, so Jesus needed to be tested.

And Mark, rather than pointing to particular tests points us to something broader and deeper. He points us to the wilderness, to the time of the Exodus when Israel too journeyed through a wilderness. In Egypt the Hebrews were no one, nothing, slaves and chattel of the realm. But God chose them and called them to be the people of God, and they were ‘anointed’ in the Red Sea. And to the world, Jesus was ‘no one special’ just an illegitimate carpenter’s son, the subject and vassal of Rome. Yet he too was chosen and called as the Man of God, and was anointed at the Jordan.

In the wilderness God established his covenant with Israel, giving them the law and statutes by which they would live out their call. It was in the desert that they were formed – where their faith and trust were tested. God shaped them through that time so that they would embody and fulfill the purpose God had for them – to be his servants and a light to the nations. And it was in the wilderness that Jesus too would have his mission and purpose tried and refined; to be The Servant, the Anointed One of God, and to be the Light of Life for all mankind.

In the end both Israel and Jesus had to answer the one essential question we face. When the people of God made their way in the Promised Land Joshua said to them ‘choose this day whom you will serve’ (Joshua 24:15). And on a dark night, in a garden, Jesus replied ‘Not my will be thine be done’ (Mark 14:36). That one question has always been, and always will be, the test of humanity, the test each one of us is asked, not just once but daily- “who will you serve”? It is the question of faith – of trust and hope and reliance.

Lent is a season of self-examination, not self-punishment. It is a time to test our metal, to ask if we are truly living as the people of God. It is, or can be, a time of ‘walking in the wild’ where God can shape us as his people and form us for his mission. The wilderness beckons us. Are you willing to go there?

Amen.

**Hymn**                      I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

# I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

85

C

1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de -  
2 Though none go with me, still I will fol - low; though none go  
3 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be -

F C

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low  
with me, still I will fol - low; though none go with me, still I will  
hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -

G7 C

Je - sus;  
fol - low; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
fore me;

WORDS: Attr. S. Sundar Singh (1889-1929)  
MUSIC: Hindustani melody

ASSAM  
10.10.10.8.

## **Joys and Concerns**

As you meet with God in prayer, please lift up the joys and concerns shared through the Trumpet Blast. God is eager to be your help and strength, to listen to you and meet your needs. Prayer is a gift we can always use. If you would like the church to pray for you please contact pastor Rosemary or Michele Lawler.

## **Prayers of the People**

Holy God, we thank you for your mercy and loving-kindness. We thank you that through all the tests and trials of life you are with us. We thank you for Jesus Christ - who throughout his life served you faithfully and well. We thank you that he has made available to us your redemption and restoration, and through your Spirit leads us in the paths of life. Knowing our struggles, O God, we come to you now seeking your wisdom and strength to live as Christ's true disciples.

We pray for your church and for this congregation. As we face the many challenges of life, grant us the courage to always choose your way. Meet us with wisdom as we turn to you for guidance and grant us strength as we follow your will. Shape us and our ministry that we may be faithful in service to your world.

We pray for the world and all our leaders. Be with them in their struggles, and grant them the courage and wisdom they need to lead this world toward justice and peace. We pray as well for all who are burdened today. Grant your healing to the ill, your comfort to the mourning, and your aid to the needy. We especially pray for.... and we thank you for... We ask your presence and power to be with each of us, as we seek to walk with you in caring service to all our neighbors, near and far.

We ask this in the name of the one who taught us to pray....

## **The Lord's Prayer (sins)**

**Choral Response**                    [https://youtu.be/IAivVHv\\_mbc](https://youtu.be/IAivVHv_mbc)

## **Offering**

The mighty, holy God has entered into covenant with us. And so, we are called to be true and faithful in all things. May our offering today give full expression to our faith and commitment. Let us pray.

Thank you, God, for your faithfulness and goodness and love for us. Thank you for the covenant fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We want to live as Christ lived. We want to do our part to share your love with the world. Use our offering and our lives to bring the fruit of your kingdom among us, for the glory of Christ. Amen.

**Doxology**

<https://youtu.be/5I7PEGUPAXQ>

(choose the one that is best for your faith)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below,  
praise him above ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

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. Amen

**Hymn**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

<https://youtu.be/zpBqddKKziE>

# O Jesus, I Have Promised 458

F F# C F C C7 Dm7 C E F Am7(b5)  
Eb

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end; re -  
2 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still, a -  
3 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you that

D7 Em7(b5) D F# D7 F# Gm G# G F G Em G7 C7sus C7 C+

main for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my Friend: I  
bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will. O  
where you are in glo - ry, your ser - vant shall be too; and,

F F# C F C C7 Dm7 C E F Am7(b5)  
Eb

shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side, nor  
speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol; now  
Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end; O

D D7 Em7(b5) D F# G# Gm F C C Bb C F  
C C

wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
speak, and make me lis - ten, O guard - ian of my soul.  
give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my Friend.

10

## **Common Commission**

**Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## **Benediction**

Go now into the world

And may our Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort our hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.      2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 adj.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

## **Postlude**

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"  
Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music  
<https://youtu.be/5bauM6xHTFI>