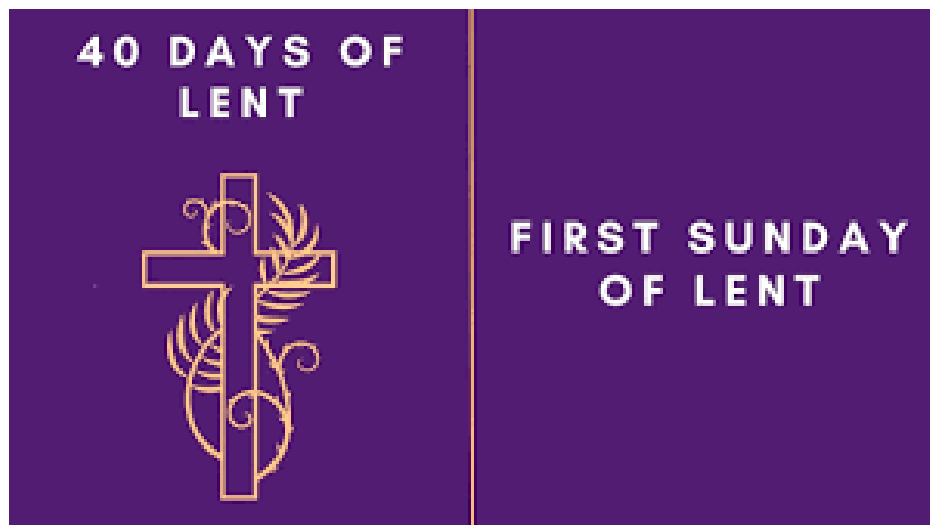


*The United Methodist Church
12 Commerce Street
Clinton, CT*



March 9, 2025

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Please stand in body, and/or spirit

Prelude

Welcome, Acknowledgements of first-time visitors and announcements

Words to Ponder:

God is our refuge and strength, our companion and guide. Leaning into this truth helps us find our way through difficult seasons of our lives.

Introit “Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place” Chancel Choir

*Call to Worship (Responsively)

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.

*Opening Hymn “Mighty Fortress Is Our God” #110

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Merciful God, your ways lead to life; your light shines in our darkness.

The promises you made to our ancestors continue to this day. We too share the bounty of your blessings, and the grace of eternal life in your name. May we be worthy of our calling and help others find their way.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Responsively)

We meet you here, God of faithfulness, our hands and lives full of all our foolish ways. Your people, we treat the strangers who walk among us with fear and doubt. We afflict our anger on those who care about us the most. We impose hard words on those who need to hear hope and grace in their lives.

So now we bring our hearts to you, Generous God, setting them down before you in hopes that you will mend them. As you hear our faltering words, we pray you would answer us with your forgiving love. And as you forgive us, may we go forth to be generous with our lives towards others, even as the one who is Lord of all, Jesus Christ, has been so generous to us.

Time of silent prayer

Words of Assurance and Pardon

As you have confessed, do you so believe? The good news is that there is nothing we do that can conquer us, for we are sheltered in God's gracious mercy and hope. **This is the truth we believe. The Word is in our hearts, and on our lips, as we give thanks to God who is our shelter and our live. Amen.**

1st Scripture Reading (Old Testament)

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

2nd Scripture (New Testament)

Romans 10:8-13

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem "Jesus My Lord, My God, My All" - Shackley

Chancel Choir

Children's moment

(Children go to Junior Church)

*2nd Scripture Reading (Gospel Lesson)

Luke 4:1-13

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn

"Take Time to Be Holy"

#395

Sermon

"You Have to be Intentional"

Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Offertory

*Doxology

#95

*Prayer of Dedication (*Unison*)

Ever-faithful God, who calls us into the deep waters of faith and trust, we offer these gifts with open hearts. Transform our offerings into acts of love and service, so that we may catch glimpses of your kingdom and draw others into your embrace. Guide us to live deeply and follow Christ's call to be fishers of people in your abundant grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“Hope of the World”

#178

Benediction

Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

With God as our guide, we go into the world. With Christ as our companion,
we go strengthened for the journey, and led with love.

*Response

“Bless Us Now”

Frank Milnes

Bless us now as we depart, Watch o'er us, God, while we're apart; Give strength to conquer daily strain, and bring us to Thy house again. Amen

Postlude

Worship Resources

Opening Prayer – By B. J. Beu, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/11822/march-9-2025-first-sunday-in-lent>

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance & Pardon, Benediction - <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

SUNDAY, MAR 9

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship
11:00 Fellowship
11:15 Trustee Meeting
12:00 Confirmation Class (Branford)

TUESDAY, MAR 11

7:00 Lenten Study Online
10:00 Clever Crafters

WEDNESDAY, MAR 12

9:30 TOPS
5:00 Soup Kitchen

THURSDAY, MAR 13

10:00 Lenten Study
6:30 Scouts
7:30 Choir Practice

FRIDAY, MAR 14

5:30 AA meeting

Ushers: Sharon Minick, Bill Hancock, Lynda Larson, Banks Babjak

Camera Operator: Valerie Gilcher

Video Coordinator: Erica Babjak

Worship Leader: Rick Gilcher

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Fellowship Host: Wilda Lohutko

Acolytes: Theo Gbumblee and Michael Babjak

Counters: Jackie Blomberg and Sally Maxwell

Greeter: Jeane Jarusik

Office Staff

Donna Carpenter-Bronson, 860-669-8396, 9-1 weekdays

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Financial Secretary: Jackie Blomberg

Treasurer: Carol Bell

**Flowers are from Deb Anderson*