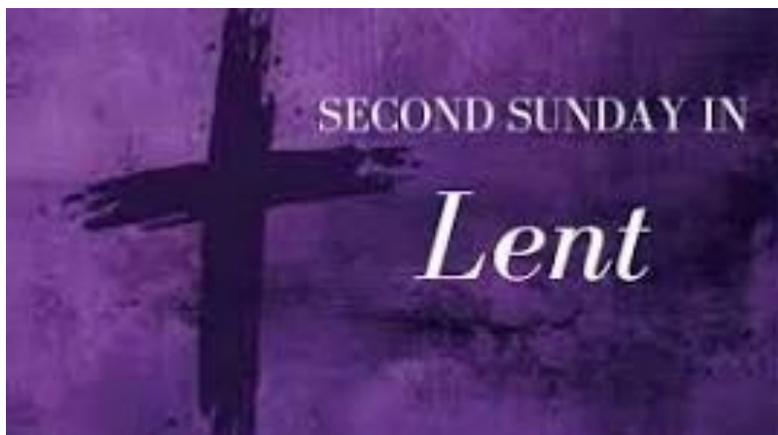


*The United Methodist Church  
12 Commerce Street  
Clinton, CT*



March 1, 2026  
Holy Communion

## 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 calls us and blesses us, that we might share our blessings with others.

Introit

Chancel Choir

\*Call to Worship (Responsively)

God calls us to set out in faith.

**The love of God leads us home.**

Christ blesses us that we might bless others.

**The blessings of Christ heal our world.**

The Holy Spirit strengthens us for the journey.

**The power of the Spirit sustains and supports us.**

The One who made heaven and earth meets us here.

\*Opening Hymn

“To God Be the Glory”

No. 98

Opening Prayer (Unison)

**Lord of light and love, your Spirit enlivens our spirits, even as your kingdom draws us to you. May we be born from above, that our souls might ascend to your realm and taste the joy of eternal life in your name. For you sent your Son into our world, not to condemn the world, but that all who enter into his light we might have life, and have it abundantly. Amen.**

Scripture Reading (Old Testament Common English Bible Version)

Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121

Leader: This is the Word of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading (Gospel NRS Version)

John 3:1-17

Leader: This is the Word of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Sermon

Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Offertory

\*Doxology

#95

\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**Gracious God, just as you blessed the saints of old when they ventured forth in faith, so now bless us in our living and in our giving. Transform our gifts and offerings into blessings for a weak and weary world, that all may touch your great love. Amen.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

### A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

Invitation

“Come, Sinners to the Gospel Feast”

No. 616

Prayer of Confession and Pardon

**Eternal God, from the beginning of time, you have called your children into communion with you. Yet we confess that like all the rest, we have turned to our own way and refused your love and grace. Restore us to the joy of knowing you and of recognizing your reign among us, through Jesus Christ, bringer of your good news. Amen.**

*Silent personal confession*

Words of Assurance

Just as the wind blows where it will, God’s Spirit moves in our world, calling us into ever deeper life with Christ. It is freely given. Hear and claim this good news – you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

The Peace

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EARLY IN LENT

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You brought all things into being and called them good.  
From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image  
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.  
When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights,  
you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family,  
and made covenant with every living creature on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights,  
you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.

When your people forsook your covenant,  
your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights;  
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

When you gave him to save us from our sin,  
your Spirit led him into the wilderness,  
where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry.  
When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life,  
presented him alive to the apostles during forty days,  
and exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter,  
you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,  
that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced  
to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving,  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

*Communion is Served*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Almighty God, thank you for this holy mystery. Grant that what we have received in time may be our healing for eternity. May your presence in my soul renew me to live a life pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

“Freely, Freely”

No. 389

Benediction/Going Forth

Postlude

*Flowers are from Laurie Bell in honor of Jeff and Liam's Birthdays.*

**SUNDAY, MAR 1-Communion Sunday**

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship

11:00 Fellowship

**TUESDAY, MAR 3**

WIC 8-5 pm

10:00 Clever Crafters

7:00 Lenten Study Online

**WEDNESDAY, MAR 4**

9:30 TOPS

5:00 Soup Kitchen

**THURSDAY, MAR 5**

10:00 Lenten Study

7:30 Choir

**FRIDAY, MAR 6**

5:30 AA meeting

**March 1st**

Ushers: Evelyn and Dennis Scaglione, Sally Maxwell, Charlotte Parisi

Camera Operator: Lisa Sutherland

Video Coordinator: Karin Thelin

Worship Leader: Jill Hale

Lectionary scriptures: Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99 (UM819), 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Communion Steward: Sharon Minick

Fellowship Hosts: Scaglione's

Counters: Robin Patten and Barbara Cubberly

Music/Choir Director: Bob Hale

Organist: Patty Hurlburt

***Office Staff***

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

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Financial Secretary: Jackie Blomberg

Treasurer: Carol Bell

**Worship Resources**

Opening Prayer & Words of Assurance

[https://ministrymatters.com/2025-11-3\\_march\\_1\\_2026\\_second\\_sunday\\_in\\_lent/](https://ministrymatters.com/2025-11-3_march_1_2026_second_sunday_in_lent/)

Prayer of Confession

Written by Ruth C. Duck, Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2012), 60.