



**Red Lodge Community Church  
United Church of Christ**

PO Box 786, 308 S. Broadway Ave., Red Lodge, MT 59068

[www.redlodgecommunitychurch.com](http://www.redlodgecommunitychurch.com)

406-446-1444

**First Sunday in Lent**

**March 9, 2025**

GATHERING MUSIC

*Dr. Lynell Kruckeberg*

WELCOME

*Rev. Teressa L. Clark*

RINGING OF THE BELL

INVOCATION

Whether we feel alone, or accompanied, God is with us. Let us open ourselves to recognize God's presence within us and among us. Amen.

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

*Betty Brekhus*

One: Are you restless and unsettled? This place is for you.

**Many: Let us worship God!**

One: Are you hungry for love and hope? This place is for you.

**Many: Let us worship God!**

One: Are you searching for direction? This place is for you.

**Many: Let us worship God!**

One: Do you have love to share? This place is for you.

**Many: Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN

"Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days"

NCH # 211

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**Gracious God, you hold us, but in times of stress, we fear that we are all alone. We hunger for easy comfort, even knowing that our appetite will return. We aim for power over uncertainty, forgetting that control is an illusion.**

**Forgive us for choosing distraction to escape from chaos. Bring our focus back to you, to your word, your presence, and your child Jesus. Amen.**

## WORDS OF GRACE

God reaches out to us, eagerly drawing us close, forgiving our sins through God's unending grace. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

## TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Season of Lent – preparing for Easter

Also, here where we live, Lent reminds us of the lengthening of days. Daylight lasts longer.

Scripture: Genesis 1:3-5 *CEB*

God said, "Let there be light." And so light appeared.  
God saw how good the light was.  
God separated the light from the darkness.  
And named the light Day and the darkness Night.

Did you know that as the planet earth goes around the sun, the earth tilts. Sometimes we tilt – or lean – toward the sun and sometimes lean away. Spring begins the tilting toward phase. We get more sunlight in every day!

What happens to the earth when there is more sunlight?

- It gets warmer.
- Animals that hibernated start waking up.
- Plants start to grow!

## PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (*unison*)

**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.**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 4:1-13 *NRSVUE*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished.

The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”

Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”

Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,’ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Forty Days”

HYMN

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

NCH # 205

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Almighty God, we pray for who live in places of threat and danger.  
We trust in you, for you are able to make peace in the midst of warfare  
and turn rough places into level ground.  
Teach us to prepare a table where enemies may feast instead of fight.

We pray for those who do not have enough – enough to eat, enough to  
wear, or enough justice.  
We trust in you, for you fill the empty with good things and lift up the  
lowly.  
Help us to share the abundance we enjoy and to work for the freedom  
and dignity of all your children.

We pray for all who are chronically homeless... and for those who are  
homeless for a season because of natural disaster or economic  
trouble.  
We trust in you, for you give even to the sparrow a nest where she may  
lay her young.  
Make us more determined to assist those who need a place to live.

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or heart; *for those dealing with illness, and for all who grieve.*  
*We especially remember ...*

We trust in you, for you are able to heal and to make whole in this life and the next.  
Make us tender caregivers, that your healing power may be at work in us and through us.

We pray for the church, dividing and uniting, wavering and witnessing.  
We trust in you, for you called the church into being and have made us your body in and for the world.  
Keep your church from being both uncertain and too certain.  
Help us to joyfully trust that your Spirit is leading us into new opportunities of faith and serve.

O God, our refuge and fortress, our shelter and shade, we pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who is generous to all who call upon him. Amen.

## CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

### INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Recognizing that all that we have comes from God, let us offer back to God, not our leftovers, but the first and best of what we have received.

### OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY                      TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH  
**Praise God from whom all grace flows forth!**  
**Praise Life, all creatures here on earth!**  
**Praise Light, who guides us on our way!**  
**Praise Love, who forms us day by day.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

**Dear God, use these gifts, and our lives, to feed and nourish, spreading your love where it is most needed. Amen.**

\*HYMN

“Before Your Cross, O Jesus”

NCH # 191

\*BENEDICTION

These Lenten days will take us to the cross of Christ.  
Go forward, knowing that you do not go this way alone.  
We do not have to be afraid:  
the Word of God strengthens us  
and the Holy Spirit sustains us.

May the God of the Exodus lead us into freedom.  
May the Holy Spirit bind us to God’s will.  
May Christ ... show us the way of true justice and peace.

\*SENDING SONG

“Peace I Leave with You”

Song sheet

*Please join us downstairs after worship for a time of fellowship.*

*An asterisk (\*) notes an invitation to stand in body or spirit;  
congregational parts are in **bold print**.*



We are an Open and Affirming Church

Serving today:

Deacons ..... Lori Floyd, Renee Gabrian  
Technology..... Jay West  
Nursery Attendant .....Karen Kinney  
Sunday School ..... Zina General (CE Director), Debbie Bratton  
Fellowship Time Host(s)..... Libby Gardner

Transitional Pastor Teresa Clark is available for **pastoral care** emergencies and visits. Contact her by phone at **406-717-9745** or by email to [rlccminister@gmail.com](mailto:rlccminister@gmail.com). During the season of Lent, Teresa will be in Red Lodge on Wednesdays.

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Invocation, Call to Worship, Prayer for Transformation, Assurance of Grace, Invitation to Generosity, and Prayer of Dedication by Ruth Garwood, "Famished: Service Prayers for the First Sunday in Lent," Worship Ways, Worship Resources for the UCC, March 9, 2025.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Living with Grief** group, led by Pastor Teresa, meets this Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Upper Room. This is a safe place to acknowledge the grief we carry following the death of a loved one as well as other losses in life including things like broken relationships, shattered dreams, or facing a new, heartbreaking reality for whatever reason.

**Joint Midweek Lenten Service** this Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, is at Messiah Lutheran Church. Worship is at 5:30 p.m. followed by a soup supper. All are welcome.

**"Love in Action"** (formerly Chamberlain Fund) grant applications are available now. For more information, talk to a member of the Stewardship and Outreach Committee, read the Shalom (weekly email), or pickup paperwork on the table in the narthex.

The Christian Education Committee and the Personnel Committee are working together to **hire a Nursery Attendant and a Sunday School helper**. They ask for our prayers and any leads on people who may be interested.

Jo Ann Eder will be leading Worship next week.