Order of Worship

First Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Congregational Updates
Rev. John O’Neal

The Community Gatherings

Gathering Meditation
At his baptism, Jesus heard the absolute truth about who he was. That was the easy part. The much harder part came in the wilderness, when he had to face down every vicious assault on that truth. The memory of God’s voice from heaven faded, and he had to learn how to be God’s beloved in a lonely wasteland. Maybe we, like Jesus, need long stints in the wilderness to learn what it really means to be God’s beloved. Because the unnerving fact is: we can be beloved and uncomfortable at the same time. We can be beloved and unsafe at the same time. In the wilderness, the love that survives is flinty, not soft. Salvific, not sentimental. Learning to trust it takes time.

—Thomas, Debie. “Into the Wild.” Published on Journey with Jesus: A Weekly Webzine for the Global Church.

*Responsive Call to Worship
Gary Springer

One: God hovered over the void and breathed life into dust.
All: God created in the wilderness.

One: The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years.
All: The Israelites found God in the wilderness.

One: Jesus said “no” to the tempter time and time again.
All: Jesus claimed his identity in the wilderness.

One: We grow in the wilderness. We learn in the wilderness.
All: For God is with us—before, through, and after the wilderness.

One: Let us worship God!
All: Amen.

*Unison Prayer of Confession
Congregation
God of Creation, the psalms remind us that even before a word is on our tongue, you know it completely. You know the prayers we bring before you today—confessions of greed and doubt, fear and anxiety, conflict and regret. Free us from these sins. Give us the strength to say “no” to that which separates us from you, and “yes” to the things that let love grow. Guide us out of our self-created wilderness spaces and into your light. Gratefully we pray, amen.

*The Passing of the Peace
As a sign of reconciliation with God and others, you are invited to greet those around you by offering the peace of Christ. During flu season, consider a wave or elbow bump to care for each other’s health.

Children are invited to join children’s leaders at the back of the sanctuary for church school at this time. They are also welcome to remain with their parents.

Hymn 519
Create in me a new heart,
So that I’ll give you more than part
Of this, the life you’ve given me,
Create in me a new heart,
Then will I teach, and others know,
And I will learn, my faith will grow.
With you I can create new dreams,
With you I can change lesser schemes,
O God, new joy and a new start!
Create in me a new heart.

The Community Proclaims God’s Word

The First Reading
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Ron Durham
Anthem

J. S. Bach

MHCC Choir

The Second Reading

Rev. Kyle Walker

Matthew 4:1-11

Serenity

"The Wilderness of Hunger, Pride, and Power"

Rev. Kyle Walker

The Community Responds

Prayers of the People

Rev. Kyle Walker

The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. For-give us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Giving

Gary Springer

Offertory

Duo

Alexandre-Pierre-François Boëly

Greg Nunn, organist

*Response

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. For-give us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

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Alexandre-Pierre-François Boëly

Greg Nunn, organist

*Response

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

God a-bore, ye heaven-ly host: Cre a-tor,Christ, and Ho-ly Clent.

Prayer of Dedication

Gary Springer

The Community is Empowered at the Table

Invitation to the Table and the Community

Rev. Kyle Walker

*Hymn 425

Let Us Break Bread Together

During the hymn, those desiring to join as members are welcome to come forward and let one of our ministers know so that we might formally welcome them to our table and ministry here at Midway Hills.

Welcome to the Table

Rev. Kyle Walker

Hand sanitizers are available at the table and in the back of the sanctuary. Gluten-free crackers are available for communion in the white cups. The elders, deacons and ministers are served last to symbolize our being servants in leadership.

Prayers at the Table

Val Cunningham

Communion

Communion

Louis Vieme

Meditation

Greg Nunn, organist

The Community is Sent to Restore God’s World

*Closing Hymn 432

O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life

ST. PETER

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Kyle Walker

Postlude

Toccata: Aberystwyth

David Bednall

Greg Nunn, organist

*Please rise in either body or spirit.