



United Presbyterian Church  
1701 E. Second Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401

First Sunday of Lent  
March 9, 2025

812-332-1850

[www.upcbloomington.org](http://www.upcbloomington.org)

**United Presbyterian Church**  
 March 9, 2025 – First Sunday of Lent



**WELCOME** Rev. Carol Barrett  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Elder Allen Pease

**PRELUDE** *I Come to the Garden Alone* Benjamin Watkins, piano

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 91) Oliver Ruth, liturgist

Liturgist: Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

**People:** **I Will say to the Lord, "My Refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!"**

Leader: God will cover you with feathers; under the wings of the Lord you may find safety.

**People:** **God's faithfulness is a shield and a protector. We will not fear.**

**\*Opening Hymn** *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* #260



**PASSING OF THE PEACE** (liturgist & congregation)

Liturgist: Called to live as children of light, let us build one another up as we share signs of peace, and words of love. The Peace of the Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

Liturgist: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

MUSIC for MEDITATION

*We Weep with God Who Weeps and Moans with Us*  
 Members of the UPC Quartet

**PRAYER of CONFESSION** (In Unison with Liturgist)

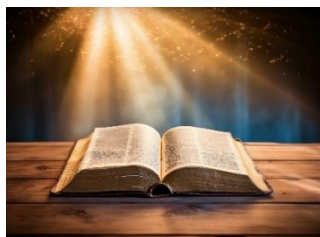
**Most merciful God, whose Son Jesus Christ was tempted in every way, yet did not sin, we confess before You that we have sinned. We have hungered after what does not satisfy. We have compromised with evil. We have doubted your love and power to protect us.**

**Hear now our silent confessions . . .**

**DECLARATION of FORGIVENESS (Liturgist)**

Forgive our lack of trust. Have mercy on our weakness.

Restore in us such love and trust that we may walk in your ways and desire in doing your will.



**The Old Testament Lesson** *Deuteronomy 26:1-11* – Liturgist Ruth

**The New Testament Lesson** *Luke 4:1-13* – Reverend Barrett

Pastor: The word of the Lord **People: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON** *Safety in the Wilderness* Reverend Carol Barret

Hymn *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* #281

**AFFIRMATION of FAITH** (from The Second Helvetic Confession – led by Reverend Carol Barrett)

We affirm that....."In all crises and trials of our life, we call upon (God) alone, and that by the mediation of our only mediator and intercessor, Jesus Christ.

For we have been explicitly commanded: 'Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me'. Moreover, we have a promise from the Lord who said: 'If you ask anything of the Father, He will give it to you', and: 'Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest'".

*\*Gloria Patri.*

#579

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER** – Elder Alejandra Haddad  
**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### CALL TO OFFERING

Offertory

*\*Doxology* #592

Prayer of Dedication

Reverend Carol Barrett

*\*Closing Hymn* *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* #80

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Reverend Carol Barrett

### POSTLUDE

*Pentatonic Melody for My Guardian Angel*

Dr. Benjamin Watkins, piano

\*Please stand if you are able

**UPC Prayer List** - Email requests to: [upcbloomington@gmail.com](mailto:upcbloomington@gmail.com).

Bob Hammel Kathleen Olds Anita Steverson Diana Trowbridge

His Eyes Mission in Honduras led by Valerie and Felipe Colby

Nyaka Global in Uganda led by Jackson Kaguri

The people of Georgia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Middle East, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine

Our military men and women stationed around the globe

Sharing our faith; serving our community; showing God's love for all, **Mount Tabor Presbyterian Church**, pastored by Rev. Sue Trigger in New Albany, may be small, but we are passionate about connecting with our community in service and fellowship. The church is located in a suburban community near Indiana University Southeast. Founded in 1838, the church has always been a mission-minded community. Partnership is the word that best describes our mission today. We have partnered with HOPE Southern Indiana to feed the hungry throughout the year and help elderly adults with home ramps and more. Recently, we partnered with two non-profit organizations that needed office and meeting space. They have moved into our newly renovated lower level and are not only using space, but dreaming with us about ways we can serve the community together. Let Us Learn, INC. is increasing access to fresh, healthy food for the entire community. Use it Again, INC., collects and distributes free medical equipment to anyone in need. Arrangements are underway with yet another non-profit in need of space. We are also excited to see our Community Room being used by individuals for meetings and events. It is an exciting time as we work together for the community and increase our connection with others. Our Little Food Pantry for food donations has become a ministry of its own! The pantry is emptied as soon as our members refill it. But we have also seen the pantry become a ministry for community members not affiliated with Mt. Tabor. Every week people come with boxes of food and fill the pantry, too. Generous donations feed people daily. Like many of our sibling congregations, we donate new clothing for children through the Salvation Army Angel Tree. We partner with the PC(USA) and donate to the special offerings that are touching lives around the world. We

support the ministry of Camp Pyoca. We also send gently-used shoes to Water Step, a Louisville-based organization that uses the proceeds from the shoes to provide water throughout the world. And we assemble food packets with Love the Hungry at their packaging center in Louisville, KY. Visioning for the future has become an important part of our work as well. Together we are listening for God's guidance and to one another's ideas as we discern where God is leading us. Naming our core values and our mission statement, and setting goals for each coming year are guiding our work. Creative worship opportunities, intergenerational activities, and educational opportunities are building our ministry and helping us to grow our faith and our relationships. We are feeling grateful for this exciting time and thankful for your prayers for Mt. Tabor PC and all whom we touch with God's love and partner with in service.



**United Presbyterian Church Staff**

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