Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

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Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor Rev. Amy Northridge, Transitional Minister Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator Ms. Donna Gross, Custodian

Wednesday Evening Worship: Week 1

6:45 PM

WELCOME PRELUDE CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

P: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

L: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

P: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

L: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

P: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

OPENING PRAYER

***HYMN**² (see p. 3)

God We Long for Our Own Comfort

*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

L: Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. The places where we are tempted to put selfish or wordly values before our hunger for seeking and doing your will.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

P: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

L: When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others:

P: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

L: When we are tempted to build ourselves up rather than being guided by the humility of Christ.

P: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

L: When we are tempted to try and coerce and control people:

P: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

L: When we are tempted to manipulate you, O God, to satisfy our own needs:

P: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

A time of silence for personal confession.

L: Merciful God,

P: save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation. Strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season that we put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did. This we pray in his name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON ACT OF PRAISE NO. 2030 (TFWS, v. 3, see p. 3)

The First Song of Isaiah

ALL SING: Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

SCRIPTURE TIME TO LEARN & DISCERN

Luke 4: 1-13

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 503 (black hymnal, see p. 4) O Savior Let Me Walk with You

*BENEDICTION POSTLUDE

Thank you to Jim Firestone & Denny Daugherty for serving on the tech team.

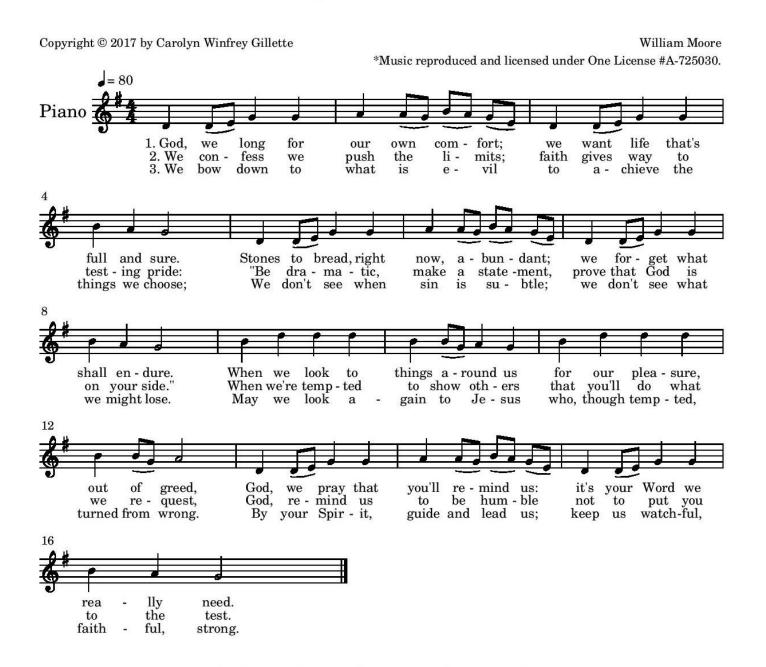
¹The Call to Worship was written by Thom Shuman and posted on his website, *Lectionary Liturgies* (http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca) and accessed at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/02/call-to-worship-into-wilderness.html on March 7, 2022.

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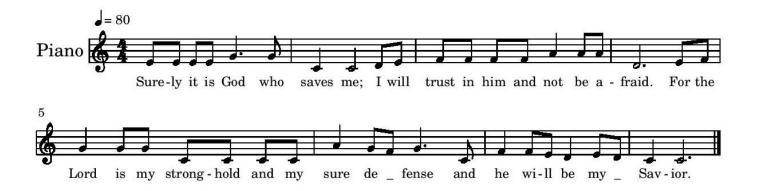
³The prayer of confession was adapted from one written by Moira Laidlaw and posted on *Liturgies Online* (http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au) and accessed at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/02/confession-wilderness-places.html on March 7, 2022.

^{*}Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

God, We Long for Our Own Comfort



The First Song of Isaiah



O Savior Let Me Walk with You

