

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, February 21, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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Order of Worship, including Scripture

Seasonal Theme:

Jesus makes his way toward Jerusalem and the cross, so that we might have undeserved forgiveness for our sins.

Theme for the day:

The baptism, temptation, and beginning ministry of Jesus.

Call to worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer).*

Pastor: People of the covenant, God does not remember us according to our sins and transgressions.

People: **God remembers us according to God's own steadfast love.**

Pastor: The God of our salvation teaches us right paths and leads us in truth.

Unison: **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness; we put our trust in God. Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

God of forgiveness, at the beginning of this Lenten season we confess to our ways of self-centeredness and to downplaying your will of love to all. We offer our lives to you, for we know that you love us dearly and faithfully. Instill your courage within us, to stand up from the waters of our baptism and to walk your path. By the power of your Holy Spirit, proclaim the good news among us today, so that we may repent and believe and see anew how the time is fulfilled and the kingdom has come near; in Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Reading from Scripture: **1 Peter 3:18-22** **Mark 1:9-15**

(readings begin on the next page)

Message: **MESSAGE AND MINISTRY MATTER!**

Pastoral Prayer

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we are humbled as we try to do what is right and to walk in your ways. Receive us and our offerings, to be used for good purpose in your church. We pray in Jesus's name and way. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Live each day revisiting your baptism. Live a life proclaiming the good news, in word and deed, as God promises his presence which strengthens us.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS for February 21, 2021

first reading -- 1 PETER 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

second reading – **MARK 1:9-15**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.