



Church on the Hill, Lenox

1st Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

* Call to Worship

Psalm 32 adapted

One: Happy are we whose transgression is forgiven,

All: Happy are we whose sin is covered.

One: Happy are any in whose spirit there is no deceit.

All: While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

One: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

All: my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

One: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

**All: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

One: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;

All: at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

One: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;

All: you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

One: You will instruct us and teach us the way we should go;

All: The LORD will counsel us, the LORD's countenance upon you.

One: Many are the torments of the wicked,

All: but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

One: Let us be glad in the LORD and rejoice,

All: Let us shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

One: In this, it is so, this which we declare in greeting one another,

"The peace of the Lord be with you."

All: And also with you.

* Hymn NCH #282 Every Time I Hear the Spirit

Prayer of Invocation

In unison

Holy and Eternal God, whom we are called to love with an undivided heart, with all our mind, soul, and strength: we know well that we can be heartless toward the misery of others and mindless toward your purposes for good, that our souls wither among our machines, that our strength has gone from us laboring after that which does not satisfy. By our luxury the hungry are sent away empty; for the sake of our comfort the innocent perish at home and abroad. As of old, we kill the prophets and anoint the fools.

We recognize now that all these separate us further from you, who is to be the all in all. They are cause of separation, and have the effect of a dynamic too powerful for us to reverse on our own or to redeem—this which only you can do.

For all this, we pray for your help: help us to deplore in ourselves the evil that so wantonly destroys; helps us to plant our faith in your Son whose resistance to temptation is in favor of his oneness with you. Inspire us to such integrity. Strengthen us for such indivisibility. Join us with you and with one another so we might live by your grace, in this world and the next. In Christ, your beloved Son—tempted, withstanding, crucified, risen—we pray. Amen.

Readings Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11

Prayer of Preparation

One: May the words of my mouth

**All: And the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.**

Sermon

* **Hymn NCH #472** Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Pastoral Prayer

Joys and Concerns

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

One: Let us pray.

Spoken Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Offering

* Doxology

Tune NCH #780

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below!
Praise God for all that love has done! Creator, Christ and Spirit: One.***

* Hymn NCH #394 *In Christ There Is No East or West*

* Announcements

* Closing Song *Amazing Grace* Please turn to others while singing!

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

Benediction

Postlude

About the Church on the Hill, Lenox

First gathered in 1769, the Church on the Hill, UCC, in the name of its host, Jesus Christ, welcomes all who seek to know God and invites everyone to join in our common life and mission through participation in this congregation. As Jesus Christ did before us, we affirm that each individual is a child of God, and recognize that we are called to be like one reconciled body with many members, seeking with others of every race, ethnicity, creed, class, age, gender identity and gender expression, sexual identity, and physical or mental ability, to journey together toward the promised realm of God. On the threshold of Christ's open door, the Holy Spirit leads us into a beloved world where we seek to serve as Christ's disciples for the sake of God's good news which is for all.

Come as you are. Receive As you need. Serve as you can.

Office Information: 55 Main Street; 637-1001; office hours T, W, T, F, 11-2

Podcast: Rev. Liz Goodman, Lenox & Monterey

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Deacon of the Month: Emily Benzenhafer

Musician: Diane Piraino

Liturgist: Amy Chin

Coffee Hour Host: Amy Chin