

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road,
Stroudsburg, PA

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025



The
of Temptation
Jesus

Welcome to Christ Hamilton! Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. This service is also available anytime on Facebook or our website along with a bulletin at www.chrighthamilton.org. Please share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please know that all are welcome at Christ Hamilton! Life is difficult enough and shouldn't be when you come to church. Regardless of how you got here, we are glad you did. If you don't know your neighbor please welcome them. **All are welcome here!** At Christ Hamilton we are an intentional community of faith, gathered in worship, united in fellowship and generous in our outreach.

The service: *These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.*

During the five Sundays in Lent we ask that instead of sponsoring altar flowers that you prayerfully consider donating to PATH (Pocono Area Transitional Housing) using the envelope in your bulletin or pew.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please stand.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Minister: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires
known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of
your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and
worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Minister: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth
is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is
faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us
from all unrighteousness. . . . Most merciful God,

**All: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free
ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word,
and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left
undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not
loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son,
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and
lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in
your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Minister: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us
and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and
ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his
authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of
all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land



Refrain - All

Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a



wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a



wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.



Leader or All

1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a
2 When Je - sus was on earth, the . .
3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .



mum-bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -



Refrain

- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

GREETING

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

KYRIE

Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved

Leader



Otče nebeský, Svoritel'u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - luj sa nad na - mi.
1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

All



Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'
e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
that your word has made. Now make us grow and



ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

PRAYER

Minister: Let us pray. . . O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

READING

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11

Reader: A reading from Deuteronomy, the 26th chapter:

¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Spoken responsively.

PSALM

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Reader: You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

**All: You will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**

Reader: Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,

**All: No evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

Reader: For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.

**All: Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

Reader: You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

**All: I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

Reader: They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

**All: With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

READING**ROMANS 10:8B-13**

Reader: A reading from Romans, the 10th chapter.

^{8b} “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 4th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ ¹¹ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

When We Are Tested



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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APOSTLE'S CREED

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS

Assisting Minister: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

Holy God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one.
God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless those who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill especially
God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

All: Amen.

The Peace is shared with one another.

PEACE

Assisting Minister: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Please stand.

OFFERTORY

CREATE IN ME

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . Merciful Father,

All: We offer with joy and thanksgiving

what you have first given us—

our selves, our time, and our possessions,

signs of your gracious love.

Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Minister: In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Minister: Let us pray together with confidence in the words our Savior gave us.

All: 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, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

Communion



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre-cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled glasses of grape juice are available in the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the Pastor.

Please come forward by way of the right aisle, receive the bread from the pastor and move to the chalice. Return by way of the left aisle as you return to your seat.

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.

Communion Assistant: The blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Minister: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . We give you thanks, almighty
God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of
this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would
strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in
fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ
our Lord.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

Minister: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

All: Amen

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
me; in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders

Minister:	Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
Assisting Minister:	Andy Porter
Reader:	Gail Derrer
Organist:	Beth McElroy
Greeters:	Sandy Lee, Sharon Sabatine, Brian Powers
Choir Director	Tassy Gilbert
Accompanist	Gail Derrer
Announcements	Amanda Balas, Office Administrator
Videographer:	Steve Metzgar and Anson Cassidy
Coffee Hour:	Jane & Sue Butz
	3/16: Denise DeVivo
	3/23: Volunteer needed

Lenten Prayer Board: Please take a heart from our prayer board in the Narthex and pray for the petition on the heart this coming week. If you would like to add a prayer concern please email Amanda chulcsts@gmail.com.

Prayer at the Rail - Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer in front of the stage after the service for any concerns.

Community Meal—March 16th at 4:30pm, they will be serving ham, green beans, scalloped potatoes, applesauce and dessert. Please see Sue Butz if you would like to help!

Coffee Hour: From now on coffee hour will only be held if someone has signed up for it on the board in the serving area. **Please let Amanda know if you have signed up by Thursday at 9am so it can be placed in the bulletin.** Please note: if no one has signed up there will be **NO COFFEE HOUR.** Please check the bulletin every week to see if coffee hour is being hosted.

Lent Begins! Beginning this Wednesday, and for the next five weeks, will be holding our soup dinners and having the Holden Evening Prayer service in the Lighthouse. Soups at 6:15pm. Service at 7.

Reminder: Pastor Steve and Amanda's days off are Friday and Saturday. Please email Pastor or Amanda Thursdays and Fridays unless there is an emergency.

Snowflakes! Please take a look at the snowflake board in the serving area. There are many ways to make small or large contributions to Christ Hamilton's operating budget. If you are able please consider taking a snowflake and donating towards the listed item.

VBS Update: Sharon Sabatine has graciously volunteered to direct our Vacation Bible School for 2025. This year bible school will be held in the evenings – July 14-18. If you are interested in helping out please email the church office chulcsts@gmail.com

Pump House Pantry is open! We are still in need of donations, especially hygiene and cleaning supplies. Feel free to stop in and have a look! If you or someone in your family or community could benefit from using the Pump House Pantry please encourage them to stop in. The pantry is open 24 hours a day.

An Identity on Which We Can Rely

In Luke's gospel, the story of Jesus' temptation comes immediately after his baptism and a lengthy listing of his ancestors. Both help confirm the identity of Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. Now Jesus is led into the wilderness, where his identity is put to the test by the devil.

The specific temptations are in some ways secondary to the question that introduces two of them. Twice the devil asks, "If you are the Son of God . . ." (Luke 4:3, 9), perhaps implying that the devil believes he knows better than Jesus what it means to be God's Son. But Jesus, "full of the Holy Spirit," is able to stand firm in his identity and deny the devil's attempts to redefine who he is.

In our baptisms, we too are given the identity of God's child, and we are given the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our baptisms do not protect us from temptation, even as Jesus himself endured temptation.

However, in our baptisms we are given an identity that can help us endure the temptations and the challenges that our lives are bound to include. Baptism gives us the confidence to trust that our identity is defined by our relationship to God, and not by anything else. In this confidence, we can accept our failures and shortcomings and live boldly in a manner that seeks to emulate Christ's own life.