

March 9, 2025
Liturgical Color - Purple

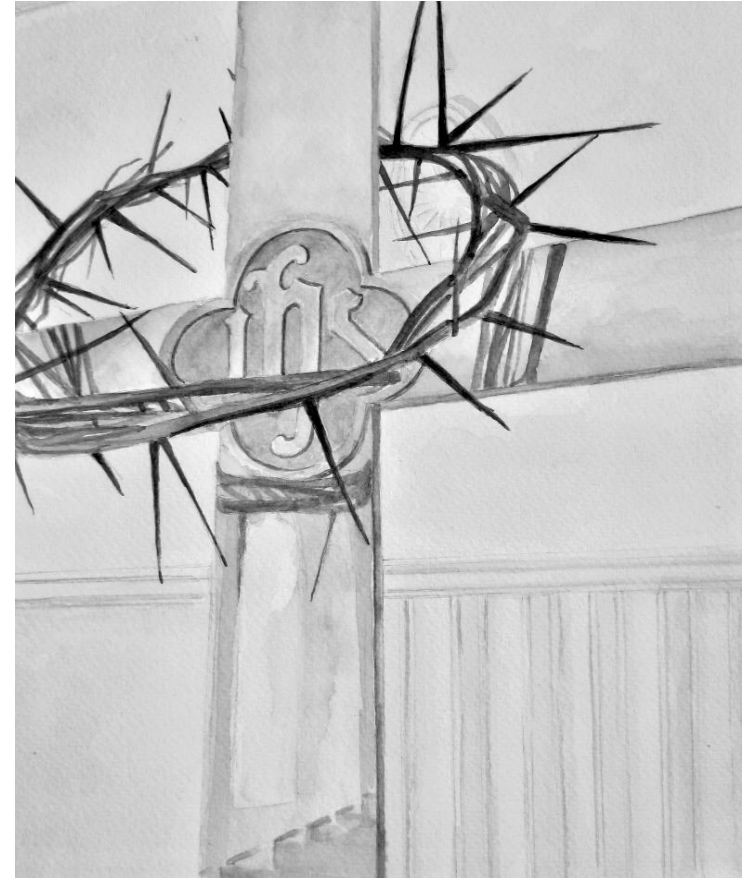
First Sunday in Lent

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
2020 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Embracing God. Extending Welcome. Celebrating All



Artwork by Sandy Murray

Sunday, March 9, 2025

10:30 a.m.

---Order of Worship---

Bell of Invitation
Welcome & Announcements
The Lighting of the Peace Candle and Centering Prayer

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Call to Worship

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

People: We begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

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

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

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

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

*Hymn #166 ST. FLAVIAN
“Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

As Lent unfolds before us, great God, we see how far we have to go to Jerusalem. The road is long, our sins are many, and our burdens are heavy. We can't imagine new life, Easter life, because our current lives are filled with bad choices and failed efforts. Meet us in our weakness. Take up our sins. Ease our burdens. Carry us on the way. Bring us to Jerusalem, at last. Show us a love that is stronger than death, a love no tomb can hold.

Kyrie #577

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

(Moment of silent prayer). Amen

*Words of Assurance

*Gloria Patri (#618)

All glory to our Lord and God,
for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forever more.

(Following the time of confession, young people ages 3 to 10 may leave for church school.)

HEARING OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading – Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Anthem “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” Spiritual

Second Scripture Reading – Luke 4:1-13

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Rethinking Temptation” Rev. David Bowman

*Affirmation of Faith – from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church

and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

*Hymn #783

SLANE

“When We Are Tested”

When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.

When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.

When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the power to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
Seeking your will in the work that we do.

When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

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 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 for Offering

Offertory

*Doxology (#606)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #618

DEO GRACIAS

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

*Charge and Benediction

DEPART TO SERVE

**Those who are able may stand.*

Christ's Ministers in the World: All members of the church

Pastor: The Rev. David Bowman

Director of Music: Dr. Shelley Sanders Zuckerman

Liturgist: Mark Thomas

The Peace Candle in the Chancel is lit to remind us of the gift of Christ's peace and our call to be peacemakers.

Welcome to all who are worshiping this morning. If you are visiting, we hope you feel very welcome and that you will stay following the service for refreshments and conversation.

Pastor Bowman's contact information:

Email: dfbsbv@gmail.com or Telephone: 732.547.3480

Announcements

The **Adult Forum** will meet next on March 23. The Zoom link will be in the Saturday announcements email.

Sunday School for Middle & High School Youth is held each Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

The **choir** rehearses each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

The **Property & Finance Committee** will meet following worship this morning.

The **Community Care Committee** will meet on Wednesday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Lenten Study group** will meet on Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

This year's **Talent/No Talent Night will be on Saturday, March 15** beginning with a pot luck dinner at 5:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is in fellowship hall.

Plans are underway for this year's **Summer Festival** to be held on August 16. A committee is being formed to plan for the festival. Please speak to Beth Clark or Shirley Hafford if you are willing to be part of such a group.

Calling Church School Volunteers! -- Volunteers are still needed to teach church school class for a Sunday or two this winter and spring. Sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Those people and places remembered in the morning prayer last Sunday are: Scott, Jessica, Ben, Carrie, Mary, Michael, Samantha, Jonathan, NG, Israel, Ukraine, United States, Ann Klein Forensic Center, those worried about being deported, Kenny, Melissa, Marilyn, Mylan, Theresa, Jill, family of Mary Ann T., John, MaryBeth, Francine, Sharon, Maureen, Declan, Guerini family, Fitzgerald family.

Slackwood's Mission Statement

Slackwood Presbyterian Church is a diverse, caring Christian community guided by scripture, committed to loving God, loving our neighbors as we love ourselves and sharing Christ's love with all people.

Slackwood's Vision Statement

We envision glorifying and serving God by being an example to each other, the community, and the world through:

vibrant worship,
faithful prayer,
relevant study,
joyful fellowship,
compassionate service.

We strive to build a safe community that embraces

all ages,
people of color,
the LGBTQIA+ community,
people with disabilities,
other marginalized people.