

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Third and Jackson Streets
Decatur, Indiana

(*Please stand either in body or in spirit
First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026
Matthew 5:1—12

**“How creative means of expression can provoke meaningful
and faithful action in our world.”**

Gathering Music: “And Can It Be That I Should Gain”
Shelly Nussbaum

The Welcome and Announcements: Liturgist: Justin Shaffer
(Visitors, Please sign the Friendship folder)

The Prelude: “Take The Name Of Jesus With You”
*The Prelude calls us together. It is a time of quiet reflection to focus ourselves
in preparation for worshipping God.*

The Light appears: The Acolytes serve
The Church Bell rings:

*Call to Worship: Liturgist
We are a holy tapestry of mystery and meaning,
A fine garment of divine blessing and human care,
A gentle weave of deep sighs and fervent prayers,
A piece of art woven with whispers and exclamation points,
We are God's tapestry
Touched with mystery and filled with meaning.

*The Hymn of Praise: “There Is Power In the Blood” No.191

*The Invocation: (In Unison) Liturgist
**In the wilderness and the wandering and the weariness, lead us,
Holy Spirit. In the hungering and the holding and the humbling,**

accompany us, Holy Spirit. In the tempting and the testing and the turning, move us, Holy Spirit. In the resisting and the refusing and the recognizing, guide us, Holy Spirit. Ground in us, as we ground in you. Breathe with us, as we breathe with you. Turn with us, as we turn toward you. As the new way emerges, we pray. Amen.

*Passing the Peace of Christ: Liturgist

God has greeted us with his peace. Let us now pass the peace of Christ to each other.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Call to Turning Around: Rev. Kahler

Prayer for Transformation and New Life: (Responsively) Rev. Kahler

For the ways our faith has told unChristian stories of Christian nationalism, and the ways they shape us,

God, have mercy.

For the ways our scriptures have told unjust stories of white supremacy, and the ways we perpetuate them,

Christ, have mercy.

For the ways our traditions have told unloving stories of transphobia and stranger-fear, and the ways we have embodied them,

God, have mercy.

Compel us to learn and tell the truths of our Christian lineages. Turn us around, Holy One. Amen.

Words of Grace:

Let your soul receive this rest: God's story of love surpasses even

the most powerful human distortions.

Praise God who forgives us and frees us continually inviting us to take up our role in the unfolding story of redemption and new life.

The Scripture Reading: Psalm 32
Liturgist
Pew Bible, Pg. 480

The Choir Anthem: “From This Very Place” Chancel Choir

Time with the Youth:

Prayers of the People:

The Morning Prayer: Spoken and Silent

Prayer of our Savior:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our
sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

The Prayer Response: Chancel Choir

The Scripture Reading: Matthew 4: 1-11
Rev. Kahler
Pew Bible, Pg. 837

The Word of God for the People of God.

The Response: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon Hymn: “O Jesus, I Have Promised ” No. 369

The Sermon: “Not Today, Satan!”

The Moment of Offering: Liturgist

Invitation to Generosity:

Prayer Of Thanksgiving: (Unison)

Jesus resisted the tempter’s lies of scarcity by remembering we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. To these sacred stories, this holy work, these blessed words, we dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Amen.

The Offering: Ushers Serve

Offertory: “Leaning On The Everlasting Arms”

* Doxology:

**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. Amen.**

*The Hymn of Commitment: “Just A Closer Walk With Thee” No.380

*The Benediction:

*Song Of Departing Friends: “My Peace”

**My peace I give unto you.
It’s a peace that the world cannot give.
It’s a peace that the world cannot understand.
Peace to know; peace to live.
My peace I give unto you.**

Service Prayers for the Lent 1A was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema. She is a founding member of the Liberating Lineages Collective.

- *The Light is carried forth Acolytes serve
- *The Worship Leaders exit
- *The Moment for Silent Prayers Chimes
- *The Postlude: “His Way With Thee”

+++++	
Each of Us	A Minister of Christ
Rev. Allen Kahler	Minister
Barb Engle	Congregation President
Jan Miller	Board Secretary
Maggie Bolinger	Office Secretary
Stacey Smith	Church Treasurer
Makayla Smith	Financial Secretary
Shelly Nussbaum	Music Director/Church Organist
Kacie Shaffer	Custodian
Justin Shaffer	Building Manager
+++++	
Steve Scott, Mike & Carol Fuelling	Door Greeters
Scott Strickler, Ken Uhrick	Ushers
Carl Stevens	Money Counter
Ushers	Acolytes
+++++	

We welcome all members, visitors, and guests to our worship service this morning. Visitors: Please sign our Friendship Folder located in each pew.

Altar flowers and bulletins are presented by Scott and Brenda Strickler in honor of their granddaughter Claudia’s 14th birthday.

We will be submitting a gift card order to RaiseRight tomorrow. Anyone who wishes to place an order should see Stacey Smith today. She will be placing an order at the end of every month.

Our Midweek Lenten service continue on Wednesday evenings. We gather at 6 p.m. for a light meal, followed by worship services at 6:30 p.m. Our theme this year is a five-part series focusing on the “I Am” statements in the Gospel of John. Anyone who is willing to help with one of the meals is asked to see Barb Engle.

The order form for the Easter Garden can be found in the vestibules. Please return them to Barb Engle by March 8th so she can place the order with Heller Nursery on March 9th. Monetary donations for the Memorial Fund are also accepted.

As many of you know, Shelly Holloway Holden suffered a medical event in January and remains hospitalized. She is making good progress but faces a long recovery. We plan to support her and her family with a special offering on Sunday, March 8th. Envelopes are available in the vestibules. You may also mail a donation to the church office before that date. Please mark your donation "Holden Offering."

Our youth group is planning a fundraiser for the month of March to support their activities. If you are interested in helping, there is a calendar posted in the dining room. You are asked to pick a date and pay that amount to Janet Smith. For example, you may sign up for March 15th and pay \$15. More than one person may sign up for a particular date.

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, Feb.25: Midweek Lenten Services
Meal 6:00 p.m.
Service 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 26: Handbell Choir Practice 6 p.m.
Chancel Choir Practice 7 p.m.

www.zionuccdeatur.org

e-mail: office: office@zionuccdeatur.org
pastor: arkinpastor59@gmail.com

Last week's attendance: 51
Needed each week: \$4045.87

Offering: \$

Please scan this code to make your donation by PayPal

