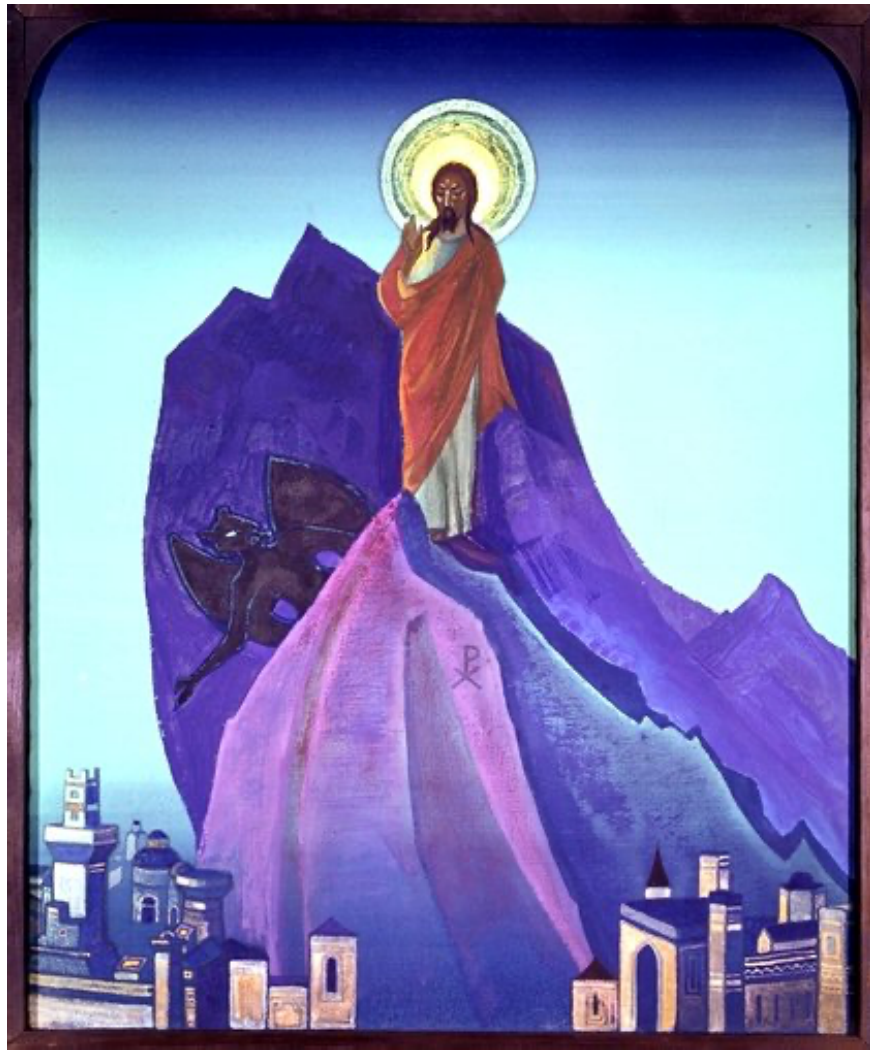


February 22, 2026 ~ 10:30 a.m.

**Welcome to Worship
First Sunday in Lent**



Temptation of Christ

Trinity Presbyterian Church
420 Melrose Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062
www.trinitypressc.org ♦ trinitysc@sbcglobal.net
(831) 423-8995

Prelude and Procession *Little Prelude in Gm*
J.S. Bach

Nicki Kearns

Welcome

Rev. Diane Ford

Preparation for Worship

Lent invites us to look honestly at our lives, not with fear, but with hope. As we prepare for worship, we bring our whole selves, just as we are, and make space to hear God's voice – gentle, truthful, and life-giving – calling us to deeper faith. May our hearts be ready for the journey.

Introit

Have Mercy, O God, Upon My Life

Choir

Call to Worship (*responsively*)

Sandy Thormann

In the wilderness, Jesus learned again that he was God's Beloved.

In our wilderness, God names us Beloved too.

God meets us not with tests, but with steadfast love.

Let us worship the One who walks with us in every season!

***Hymn PH # 87**

The Glory of These Forty Days

Please remain standing if able, and face the baptismal font

Prayer of Forgiveness and Healing (*unison*)

Sandy

Creator, Redeemer, Guide, Good Teacher, Great Physician, Shepherd, Savior: You know us through and through - our quiet regrets, our missed chances to show love, or rush to judgment, our reluctance to forgive. You see it all and still you embrace us. Forgive what has hurt you and others. Heal what is wounded within us. And remind us again that we are dust, yes, but dust held in grace and shaped by your love.

(Time for silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness and New Life

Diane

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love for us. As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our sin. You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

"The Peace of Christ be with you." **"And also with you."**

Let us share a sign of that peace with one another.

Children are invited to the front pew after the Passing of the Peace to see and hear today's Scripture reading. Afterward, they may go to Sunday School.

Prayer of Illumination (responsively)

Sandy

God of wisdom and rest, you reveal truth not through power, but through love. Quiet our hearts, calm our striving, and open us to receive your Word with childlike trust. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Reading: Matthew 4:1-11 The Temptations of Jesus

Narrator: Sandy; Jesus: Jerry; The Tempter: Vickie

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayers of the People - God of Life and Hope, Hear our Prayer

Presbytery Unity Candle: We pray for First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto, and Rev. Tom Harris.

Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Anthem

Create In Me a Clean Heart
by Michael Myrick

Choir

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a faithful spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from Your presence,
Do not take Your holy spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
And sustain in me a willing spirit.*

*Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And the lost will return to you.
Deliver me from guiltiness,
O God of my salvation,
And my tongue will sing aloud of Your deliverance
And my lips will declare Your praise.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
And renew a right spirit within.*

Sermon

The Rev. Diane Ford

Offering Our Lives to God

Diane

Offertory

Soliloquy on "What Wondrous Love Is This"
Grimoaldo Macchia

Nicki

***Doxology PH #591**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

Diane

God of steadfast love, you meet us in every wilderness and guide us toward life. Take these offerings and take us, your people—our energy, our abilities, our resources. Multiply them for your purposes so that what we do reflects who you are. Amen.

Announcements

***Closing Hymn PH# 81** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

***Blessing and Charge**

***Amen**

Choir

***Postlude**

Let the Word Go Forth, by Tom Birchwood

Nicki

*We invite all to stand in body or in spirit.

PH - Presbyterian Hymnal

GH – Gather Hymnal

Cover art: “Temptation of Christ” (1933) Artist: Nicolas Roerich. Public domain.

Special Thanks to Our “Sunday Saints”

Pastor: The Rev. Diane Ford

Music Director: Nicki Kerns

Lector: Sandy Thormann

Flowers: Linda Weaver

Greeters: Michael Christie

Usher: Jeff Lawton

Coffee Hour: Barb Christie

Readers: Sandy Thormann, Jerry Thormann, Vickie Rutan

Audio/Video/Zoom Techs: Chad Bell, Chuck Cobery, Rosie Bell

Announcements

Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church Are you new today? We look forward to getting to know you. Please fill out a visitor welcome card and place it in the offering plate during the Call to Offering. After worship, join us for coffee/refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. We're glad you're here!



Lenten Evenings: We enjoy four Thursday evenings, March 5, 12, 19, and 26, 5:30-7:30 PM in the Fireside Room. Join us for fellowship, potluck, and an after-dinner conversation on topics of faith. All are welcome and encouraged to invite a friend.

People of Faith Say Love Over Fear. The Mission Committee is pleased to report that last Sunday members and friends of the congregation contributed \$630 to the Presbytery Legal Defense Fund for people in our community who face detainment and deportation, easily qualifying for dollar-for-dollar matches from both the Committee and the Presbytery. Additional donations are welcomed. Make your check payable to Trinity, and designate "legal defense fund" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

The Board of Deacons relies on the generosity of members and friends of the congregation to provide financial support for their endeavors. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please use the envelopes in the pews to designate your contribution to the work of the Deacons.

The 9th Annual Great Chili Cook-Off! All are invited to this fundraiser on Friday, February 20, from 6-8 pm. Enjoy the best chili in the County at Twin Lakes Church, Building 7000, 2701 Cabrillo College Drive, Aptos.

Please continue to remember these people and situations in your prayers.

- Elizabeth: thank you to Nicki for the beautiful Chopin prelude that began our service.
- Covenant Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto: gratitude for the congregation's long-standing commitment to feeding the hungry.
- Marta Narus: recovering rapidly from back surgery.
- Diana Dean: at Redwood Grove Rehabilitation following hip surgery before transitioning home.
- Rev. Ken Henry: grateful to be worshipping again with a congregation full of openness and love; gratified to experience a focus on the baptismal font that he dedicated over 35 years ago.
- Geraldine, Nicki's sister: gratefully anticipating a surgical procedure that may lessen heart issues.
- Angels in Plain Sight: volunteers who do so much for our community.

Trinity Presbyterian Church

CHRIST-CENTERED and MISSION-DRIVEN:

An OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH

trinitypressc.org (831) 423-8995 Facebook Instagram

Office Hours: Tuesday -Thursday 10:00 - 2:00 ❖ Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

