

March 6, 2022

Simulcast on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4743450556>

Meeting ID: 474 345 0556 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Hosted by Elaine Good

Lent 1 From security to generosity Focus - As we seek God's way, we move from prioritizing our personal security to living with generosity toward our neighbors.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,

**People: through the wilderness of Lent,
through the wilderness of life.**

Leader: We crave the safety of God's shelter,

**People: the cool comfort of the divine shadow,
the security of the holy fortress.**

Leader: God offers the care of angels,

**People: the gentleness of creation,
the protection of love.**

Leader: God is generous to all who call on the holy name,

All: so come, let us seek God's way of generosity.

Prayer

Leader: Your ways, O God, are higher than our ways.

People: Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

Leader: We seek God's ways. (*Snip the cords that bind one box.*)

All: Lord, move us from our ways of clinging to security to your ways of generous living.

Songs

Lenten prayer of confession (Isaiah 55 adapted)

Leader: Holy One,
we seek you while you may be found.

People: We call upon you while you are near.

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God,
for our thoughts are not your thoughts
and our ways are not your ways.

People: Forgive us for seeking security. Lead us into your way of generosity.

Leader: As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey,
let us see your way more clearly

All: and follow your way more faithfully.

Prayer

When the fruit from the soil springs forth and ripens, and the laughing trees seem to bow before us, may we remember that a wandering Aramean was our ancestor. May we remember that the earth is yours, O God, and that our dwelling place is only a tent. Our security is in you and your way. May your winds rattle our walls and shake our false sense of security. May we walk with Jesus as we seek your way while he turns from the temptation to rule the world and turns toward those who cry out in their affliction, toil, and oppression. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Song

Children's time

Scripture Isaiah 55:8-9, Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Luke 4:1-13, Romans 10:8b-13

Sermon God's Thoughts to Our Thoughts

Reflection question

- What are you holding on to tightly that can now be released, freeing you to be generous?

Songs

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

After prayer times *“Lord, in your mercy”* respond with *“hear our prayer.”*

Offering Song

Announcements – Church Board Meeting March 9 – 7:00 pm.
IMC Zoom Gathering, March 12

Sending From this time and place into whatever awaits, may you follow God's way of generosity. May you release whatever you hold in fear, so that you may be free to live generous lives. As you go, know that our God of the wilderness remains with you on the way.

Online giving option: <https://tinyurl.com/donateWSMC>