



Salem Spirit of Life Church



“A Welcoming Community”

Rev Dr Don Eck—Pastor

Rev Dr T (RW Taylor) - Associate Pastor

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Sunday Worship 10:00AM
Sunday School 9:45AM

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Welcome to the Wilderness

The wilderness, Jesus' wilderness in Palestine, and our wilderness in Lent, is not about escape. It is not about turning inward and forsaking the world. It is not about claiming inward spirituality at the expense of outward discipleship.

No, this wrestling and questioning, praying and fasting in the desert is about preparation for ministry. It is about moving away, for a time, from the stress and busyness, noise and distraction in order to face our fragile humanity.

Yes, to face the fears, the anxieties, the self-absorption, the idolatries that stand in the way of serving God with all our heart and all our soul, with all our mind and all our strength. The wilderness is not about facing the evil that is out there. It is about facing the evil in here – about facing the evil inside our own souls. It is about owning, confessing, and acknowledging

how much we run away from God's terrifying grace and demanding love. It is about how much we avoid admitting who we really are and what it is we really need.

When all is said and done, the wilderness – even with all its trials and temptations – can be an oasis of grace and spiritual strength. Despite the lonesome valleys and the forbidding peaks despite the fears and anxieties despite the confusion and the hunger, God leads us into the wilderness for a purpose: to refine us by fire and to confront us with the most important decision of our lives.

Whom shall we serve? Shall we serve the world or living out our baptismal promises, shall we serve the one who has given us life?

Once again, this Lenten season, the choice is before us.

Whom shall we serve?

Let us follow the Spirit into the wilderness and trust that God will be there to minister to us.

May it be so for you and for me. Amen.

What's Happening Around SSOL:

Wednesday 6:30PM Lenten Bible Study

Tuesday March 17th HIV Alliance Meets at SSOL for their Regular Meeting 4:00PM

Friday March 20th Pot Luck and Movie All Are Welcome - 6:30PM -- Signup Sheet on the table in the hospitality room. Movie: ??

Lenten Schedule:

March 29th: Palm Sunday Service 10AM

April 2nd: Maundy (Holy) Thursday Service 7PM

April 3rd: Good Friday Service 7PM

April 4th: Holy Saturday Church Open 10AM – Noon

April 5th: Easter Sunday Service 10AM

Hospitality Schedule For March:

Mar 1st: Don
Mar 8th: Nelson
Mar 15th: Roni & Carolyn
Mar 22nd: Open
Mar 29th: Open

Keep in your prayers those not with us today because of illness or distance.

Readings and Gospels For Lent:

Feb 22nd: First Sunday of Lent

Reading: Book of Genesis 9:8-15

Psalm Response: Your Ways, O Lord, Are Love And Truth To Those Who Keep Your Covenant.

Reading: 1st Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 3:18-22

Gospel: According to Mark 1:12-15

March 1: Second Sunday of Lent

Reading: Book of Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Psalm Response: I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Reading: 1st Letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31b-34

Gospel: According to Mark 9:2-10

March 8: Third Sunday of Lent

Reading: Book of Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm Response: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Reading: 1st Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: According to John 2:13-25

March 15: Fourth Sunday of Lent

Reading: Book of Chronicles 36:14-16, 1-23

Psalm Response: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Reading: 1st Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: According to John 3:14-21

March 22nd: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Reading: Book of Prophet Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm Response: Create a clean heart in me, O God

Reading: Letter to the Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel: According to John 12:20-33

