

P: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Unison Prayer**

God, our Guide and Guardian, lead us on this journey of faith. Through the days and weeks of Lent, help us walk your path to the cross; strengthen us to resist the demons that would lead us astray. Walk with us, Christ Jesus. Be our shelter and our salvation, even as we seek to be your disciples. Amen.

***Old Testament Reading** Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

***Hymn** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* UMH 269
(all 5 verses)

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you know the difficult paths we tread; you know the challenges we face. Forgive us when we wander away from your guidance. Reclaim us when we seek other gods that lead to our own destruction. Guide us back to you that we may rest in your shelter. Strengthen our resolve that we may face the demons of our lives and courageously resist the temptations that blind us to your love. In hope and trust, we pray. Amen.

Unison Words of Pardon and Assurance

Because we trust in the midst of our doubt, God lays a path before us. Because we hope in the face of our sin, salvation is ours! In the name of Christ, God forgives all and reclaims us as God's holy children.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

Anthem

***Prayer for the Offering**

***Doxology** UMH 95

Gospel Reading Luke 4:1-13

Hymn *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (3 verses) UMH 521

Sermon "Welcome to the Wilderness? Seriously?"
Rev. Alice Walsh

***Hymn** *It is Well, with my Soul* UMH 377

***Responsive Benediction**

L: Beloved, as we live in the shelter of the Most High and abide in the shadow of the Almighty, may we find God to be our refuge and fortress.

All: Go now, in the blessing of the Triune God who shelters us and rescues us, that we all might be a shelter and a rescue for, and with, one another. Amen.

Postlude *O Love, How Deep* Kristina Langlois
(You are invited to be seated for the Postlude before exiting the Sanctuary.)

**Please stand if you are able.*