

**BEULAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**February 22, 2026 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
**“Temptation makes no distinction between people.”**

**GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

“BWV 974 – Adagio”

J.S. Bach

**GREETING & WELCOME** ~ Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal

Good morning! Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Lent is a 40-day period of preparation for Easter. Lent involves prayer, fasting, and abstinence. It symbolizes the 40 days Jesus stayed in the wilderness fasting. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The First Sunday in Lent invites us to consider how to set the space for the journey ahead. What natural elements represent wilderness in our context? In the wilderness, God is present.

**We come, seeking God’s voice and guidance.**

In the wilderness there are symbols that lead us into communal prayer and contemplation where Christ stands with us.

**We come, trusting in His strength and mercy.**

In the wilderness we come together to discuss what Jesus’ temptation means for us.

**We come, ready to learn how to face our own temptations.**

**\*HYMN**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

#475

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Liturgist Dana Gardner

**CALL TO WORSHIP** - Liturgist Dana Gardner

In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.

**I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

**No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame.**

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

**Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are my God and my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.**

We come to the wilderness afresh, ready to pay attention and encounter mercy at work in the midst of temptation and distress.

**All: God’s help is coming, let us worship the Lord—our refuge, our hope, and our Redeemer.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER** ~ Liturgist Dana Gardner

Holy God, by the grace of Jesus Christ, you know the tests and trials we face. Journey with us through this wilderness. Come to us with ministers of healing and visit us with messengers of hope, so that we may return to you in faith, believing the good news of the gospel; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** ~ Liturgist Dana Gardner

In a time of testing, let us pause to examine our own hearts, looking for how we have failed to live up to that which God has commanded. Lord Jesus, help us to be real disciples while we repeat the words of our prayer of confession...

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION** ~ Liturgist Dana Gardner

**Merciful God, you know all about our troubles. Jesus was tested in the wilderness, tempted by the powers and principalities of the age. We confess how easily and often we give in to them. Yet, you continue to forgive us, reminding us there is nothing we can do to lose your love. Holy God, turn us from the evil powers in high places, that we may return to you and the path to which you have called us. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

“Take My Life”

#697

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** – Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal

Hear and receive the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Know this and be at peace...

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE** (*Please stand in body or in spirit*)

Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal

The peace of God be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Please take a moment to share that peace with one another while we sing Glory to God.

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

**ANTHEM**

“You Are”  
(Chancel Choir)

Wood/Petak

**THE WORD IS PROCLAIMED**

**A TIME WITH ALL GOD’S CHILDREN**

*(Children are invited to participate in activities at the Prayground area  
in the back of the sanctuary.)*

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** ~ Liturgist Dana Gardner

Still-speaking God, guide us by your Word and Spirit that we might hear, and by hearing, grow in faith and love. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

Luke 4:1-13 ~ Liturgist Dana Gardner

The word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

“Can God be Tempted?”

Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*From A Brief Statement of Faith*) ~ Liturgist Dana Gardner  
**In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!” With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

## \*HYMN

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

#687

## **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER** ~ Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal

Beloved, in this trying season of temptation, let us accept God’s invitation to always be mindful of others’ needs, offering our prayers on behalf of God’s community in the church and the world: Gracious God, in Jesus, you came to show us the way to a full life because you so loved the cosmos. Therefore, we are bold to pray in Christ’s name, seeking your will in our lives and in the lives of all your children.

God, our ever-present help, we pray for our world. Where there is war, we pray for peace. Move among us through your Spirit. Break down the barriers and borders constructed by fear, paranoia, violence and hatred. Heal the divisions in our human family that diminish and harm your good creation. Unite us in bonds of love and service, that we may pursue what is right and good and just for all.

God, our hope, we pray for our country. We pray specifically for our elected leaders in our cities, states, and nation. May they do what is right, not just what is beneficial. Let us be people who speak the truth, even when it is unpopular; who stand on the side of the oppressed, the downcast, and forgotten, even when it is inconvenient; who love our neighbors and enemies, even when it is costly. Through it all, O God, remind us of our true allegiance to your way.

We welcome your Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. God, our healer, we pray for those who suffer: the sick, the lonely, the grieving, the houseless, the overworked, and those without employment. Surround them with your love; Support them with your strength; Console them with your comfort; and give us all hope and courage beyond ourselves.

Finally, O God, our Redeemer, we pray for the church. Keep us true to the Gospel, the good news to the poor. Shake and stir us into responsibility in these trying times. Make known your saving power in Jesus Christ, through the witness of our faith, our worship, and our life. Fill us with your strength to resist the seductions of our selfish desires and the tempter’s power, that we may walk in your ways, rejoicing in you with all our hearts.

We lift these prayers to you, concluding with the prayer Christ taught us, saying together...

**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.**

## **OFFERING**

**INVITATION TO COLLECT THE OFFERINGS** ~ Liturgist Dana Gardner

God is generous and calls us to offer our time, talents and resources back to God, the giver. God has modeled this generosity like a parent giving up an only child. Love and gratitude lead us to give abundantly...

**Collection of the Offerings**

**\*Doxology**                      **“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”**                      #606  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** ~ Liturgist Dana Gardner

Take these, our gifts, as we offer them today, O God. Use them for your glory and Kingdom's expansion. May these gifts go toward freeing the captives, feeding the hungry, comforting the lonely, and healing the world. As Christ's body, use us too, in service to repairing the breach broken places in our community. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

**\* HYMN**                                      “There Is a Balm in Gilead”                                      #792

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**                                      Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal

**\*POSTLUDE**                                      “Fantasia in d-moll”                                      J. Pachelbel

*CCLI#20544224 & 20544*

*Go in Peace*

*A special word of thanks to all those who helped make this worship service possible.*

*It is good to be together!*

*Remember in Prayer*

*Lorna Pierce, Sue Kyle, Evelyn Vaughn, Laura Mills, Mary Hockenberry, Tim Lovett, Bill Rush,  
Bill Anderson, Cecelia Casal, Edie McCaulley, Marlene & Bob LeBlond, Verna Williams,  
Melanie Magruder, and all Service Personnel and their families.*

*All those who are Care Givers, and all those affected by tragic world events.*

**Welcome! We warmly greet all who have come to worship God.**

**We are so glad that you are here.** We hope that joining us for worship today will nurture your heart and transform your mind. Here at Beulah our mission is transforming lives through the love of Jesus Christ – that simple and that challenging. We realize we need each other and commit to pray for each other. We reach out in love and compassion to a world in need, and we know we are a work in progress. If you are new to Beulah, we hope you will join us again and consider attending any of our mission, fellowship, and education opportunities. God’s peace to you today.

**Membership** ~ If you are interested in becoming a member or you have any questions about membership, please speak with Pastor Casal on Sunday mornings or Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 – 6:30 p.m.

**Learn more** by visiting us on our website at [www.beulahpres.org](http://www.beulahpres.org), and on our Facebook page at Beulah Presbyterian Church.

**Assisting in worship** ~ Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal; Music Director/Accompanist Kim Karchenes; Liturgist Dana Gardner; The Chancel Choir; and Sound Crew, Brent Dellacoletta and Jim Harris.

**Virtual Ministry** ~ Please follow us on our Website [www.beulahpres.org](http://www.beulahpres.org), Facebook, Instagram@beulah\_pres, and YouTube to stay up to date on upcoming events, view previous worship services, live stream services, and see what’s happening in the life and ministry of Beulah!

**Listening Devices** ~ The Sanctuary is equipped with Listening Devices for persons with hearing difficulty. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**Electronic Devices** ~ In the hustle and bustle of getting ourselves ready for church it is easy to forget to turn off our cell phones. We offer this gentle reminder to please power off cell phones and other electronic devices so that the worship service is not disrupted by them.

**Large Print Worship Bulletin** ~ If you or someone you know needs a large print bulletin of today’s service, please ask one of the ushers and they will assist you.



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**Church**

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