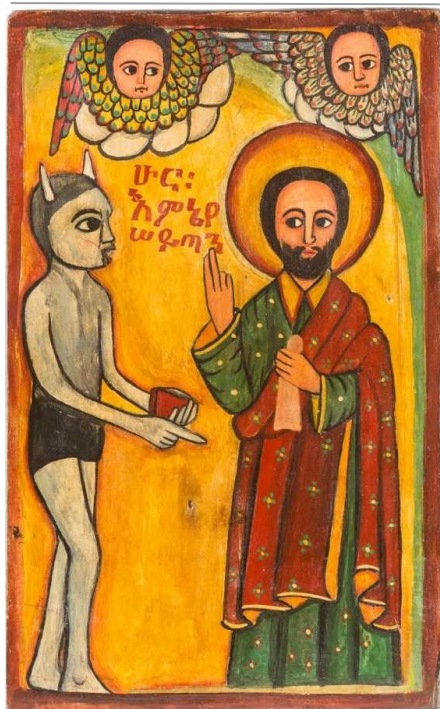


Parts of the service in **bold** are for everyone to speak in unison.



### Prayer for the Day

*I am not asking you to take this wilderness from me, to remove this place of starkness where I come to know the wildness within me, where I learn to call the names of the ravenous beasts that pace inside me, to finger the brambles that snake through my veins, to taste the thirst that tugs at my tongue. But send me tough angels, sweet wine, strong bread; just enough.*

### Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sheri Fry

Call to Worship

Liturgist Ruth Vazquez

Leader: Driven by the Spirit, Jesus went out to inhabit a liminal place.

All: For forty days and nights, homeless and weary, famished and footsore, he wandered and watched and wrestled...

Leader: For forty days and nights, companioned and comforted by animals and angels, he traversed and tested and tempered. And then, knowing who he was, seeing where he must go, understanding what he should do...

All: Jesus, filled with the Spirit, returned from the uncharted place to do the work of the Kingdom.

Lighting of the Christ Candle (unison)

Ruth Vazquez

**In this place of friendship there is freedom. Let the light we kindle go before us, strong in hope, wide in good will, inviting the day to come.**

Hymn 166

*Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

(next page)

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

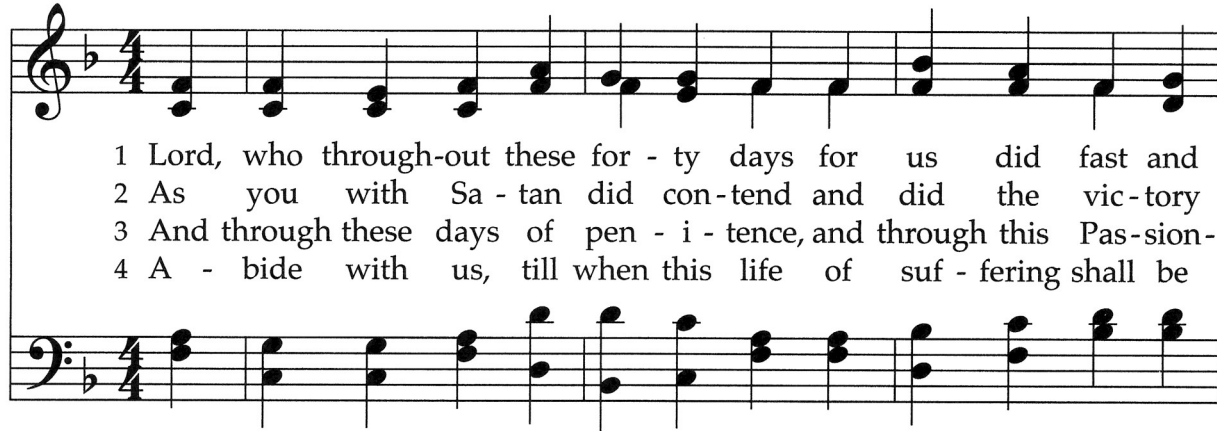
Rev. Sheri Fry

**God, I turn into ashes all my preconceptions about this scripture, all my safe, familiar interpretations. Burn me with its newness. Let it rise like the phoenix with bright wide winged words. Amen**

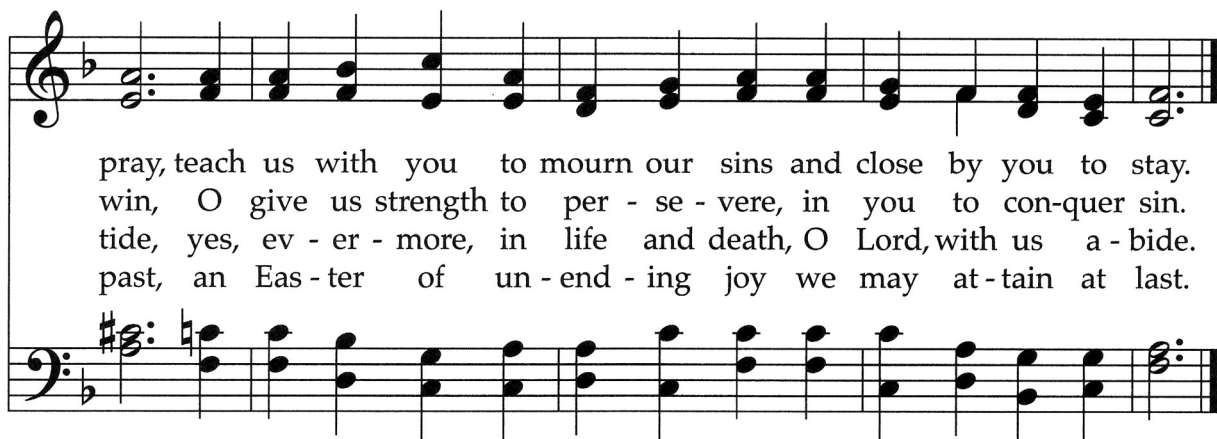
(continued)

# Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

166



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and  
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory  
 3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-  
 4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be



pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.  
 win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.  
 tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.  
 past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at-tain at last.

Like many of this author's hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

Lesson for the Day

Mark 1:9-15

Sermon

*A Man. A Wilderness,. A Few Beasts*

Rev. Sheri Fry

Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

*(The Iona Community of Faith)*

Ruth Vazquez

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire. We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity. We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place into action, into vulnerability, and into the streets. We commit ourselves to work for change and put us on the line; to bear responsibility, to take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope.

Amen

Anthem

*It Is Written*

Sara, Jonathan and Angel Horvath

Prayer and 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 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 Ourselves and our Gifts

Hymn 292

*As the Wind Song*

(next page )

Charge and Benediction

Sung Benediction 702

*Christ Be Beside Us*

(page after next)  
Sara and Barbara Myers

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Good Shepherd Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Sheri Fry  
Choir Director: Sara Tyburczy

Office Admin: Teddie McConnell  
Accompanist: Dr. Jonathan Morris

## 292

## As the Wind Song



1 As the wind song through the trees, as the  
2 As the rain - bow af - ter rain, as the



stir - ring of the breeze, so it is with the Spir - it of  
hope that's born a - gain, so it is with the Spir - it of



God, as the heart made strange-ly warm, as the  
God, as the green in the spring, as a



voice with - in the storm, so it is with the Spir - it of  
kite on a string, so it is with the Spir - it of



God. Nev - er seen, ev - er known where this wind has  
God, mak - ing worlds that are new, mak - ing peace come



blown bring-ing life, bring-ing power to the world,  
true, bring-ing gifts, bring-ing love to the world,



as the danc - ing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep de -  
as the ris - ing of the yeast, as the wine at the



sire, so it is with the Spir - it of God.  
feast, so it is with the Spir - it of God.

# Christ be Beside Us

702

2. Christ be be - side us;

Christ be be - fore us;

Christ be be - hind us,

King of our hearts.

Christ be with - in us;

Christ be be - low us;

Christ be a - bove us,

nev - er to part.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Christ be Beside Us'. It consists of eight staves of music, each with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '2.' indicating a second ending. The melody is simple, using quarter and half notes. The final staff ends with a double bar line.