



First Parish of Westwood UCC

252 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090
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Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, *Interim Pastor*
Rev. Richard Edens, *Interim Pastor*

February 21, 2021
First Sunday in Lent

Gathering

PREPARATION

I have a hunch that the early Christians made converts not by terrifying people with the prospect of judgment, but by vividly depicting a new order of reality which was already bursting upon the world through Jesus. The passion that drove Jesus' disciples to evangelistic zeal was fueled not by the desire to fill heaven with sinless saints but by relief at being liberated from the delusional game played by the powers that be, and by the determination to set others free.

-- Walter Wink, *Christian Century*

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Jesse Aguilar with Fina Aguilar

WELCOME AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days

St. Flavian

Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music

Encountering the Word

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Noah's Ark

Revs. Jill & Richard Edens

LESSON

Reader: Kathleen Davis

Mark 1:9-15, *NRSV*

Jesus is here seen "after the flood" as having been baptized. But the wilderness setting early in Jesus' ministry also anticipates the conflict that will culminate in the cross. Though danger lurks, it is also anticipated that the one who journeys safely with wild beasts and who angels feed will finally triumph.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor

PASTORAL PRAYER CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor

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

God so Loved the World
First Parish Westwood Choir

John Stainer

>>> over >>

Giving Thanks in Response to the Word

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD AND TO ONE ANOTHER

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor

Until that day when we gather again in the sanctuary, please send your tithes and gifts for First Parish to the church office at 252 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090.

Sending

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor

BLESSING IN MUSIC

Go in Peace

First Parish Choir
Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music