

ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 EAST BROADWAY
ROSLYN, NEW YORK

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

10:00 AM

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GATHERING IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE/WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE PRAISE OUR GOD

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We have come from the dust of Ash Wednesday.

Many: We have remembered that we are fragile yet beloved.

Pastor: We enter now the wilderness with Jesus.

Many: For the wilderness is not punishment, but a place of clearing.

Pastor: A clearing season—where distractions fall away and truth draws near.

Many: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose spirits are made new.

Pastor: Come, then — let us walk this Lenten road together.

Many: We come to draw closer to God.

* HYMN: 655 (Red Hymnal) *Sanctuary*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Holy and Clearing God...

Many: You led Jesus into the wilderness—not to abandon him, but to deepen him. In these forty days, you call us also into a quieter, truer place. Strip away from us whatever is false. Unburden us of what we no longer need. Help us face our temptations with honesty, our hungers with courage, and our fears with trust. As Jesus trusted you in the desert, teach us to trust and to rest in your

(“*” invites all who are able to stand. **Bold** indicates read or *sing* in unison.)

steadfast love. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE: *Behold, Darkness Shall Cover The Earth*
Handel (from *The Messiah*)

Gary Lorentzson, soloist

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. (Isaiah 60, vv.2–3)

CALL TO CONFESSION/PRAAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: In the wilderness, Jesus faced temptation honestly. In the psalm today, we hear that hiding only weighs us down. For Lent invites us to stop pretending. The season invites us to release what we’ve been carrying that’s no longer useful and to step into God’s mercy. Let us confess our sin together...

Many: We confess that we resist the wilderness. We distract ourselves and cling to what’s familiar, even when it harms us. We hunger, yet we seek comfort, control, and approval instead of your living Word. We grasp for power rather than trust your provision. Forgive us. Clear away what is false within us. Free us from our shame. Create in us a truthful spirit and lead us again into Your grace. Amen.

(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* GLORIA PATRI 579 (Blue Hymnal) *Glory Be to the Father
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end
Amen, Amen.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Leader: Spirit of Truth,

Many: As we hear the stories of wilderness and mercy, open our hearts to recognize ourselves within them. Let Your Word clear us, guide us, and bring us closer to You. Amen.

THE PSALTER: Psalm 32 (NRSV) (Responsive Reading)

Reader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Many: Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Reader: While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

Many: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Reader: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"

Many: And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Reader: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

Many: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

Reader: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Many: Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

Reader: Many are the torments of the wicked,

Many: But steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Reader: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,

Many: And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

* HYMN: 87 (Blue Hymnal) *The Glory of These Forty Days*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 4:1-11 (NRSV)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it

is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Glory to You, O God

MESSAGE *A Clearing Season — Jesus in the Wilderness*

Rt. Rev. Br. Mark D'Alessio

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE: *The People That Walked in Darkness*

Handel (from *The Messiah*)

Gary Lorentzson, soloist

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. (Isaiah 9, v.2)

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND OUR 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.

* HYMN: 80 (Blue Hymnal) *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

CALL TO OFFERTORY

Pastor: In the wilderness, Jesus trusted God's abundance. Let us now offer our gifts, as we are able, as a sign that we, too, trust in God's abundance and sustaining love.

* DOXOLOGY

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

Generous God, receive these gifts and our lives. Clear from us the fear of scarcity, and make us courageous in compassion and faithful in justice. May our giving here today help create spaces of renewal and compassionate communities of hope. In Christ's name, we pray, Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Thank you, dear friends, all those with us online from home and those gathered here in person... As we depart, let us go into this Lenten season of wilderness not as those who are lost, but as those being found. When temptation comes, may we remember that we are beloved; when distractions arise, may we trust that God meets us even there; when the way feels stripped bare, may we know that such clearing makes room for grace. And may our God who forgives, and our Christ who endured the desert, and the Spirit who sustains in every season, walk with us through these forty days and beyond. Go now in Peace, to love and serve the Light of the World.
Thanks be to God.

DISMISSAL *Go Now in Peace*

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen, Amen, Amen.

POSTLUDE

THE WORSHIP IS OVER, LET THE SERVICE BEGIN

Rev. Dr. James Barnum
Dr. Gary de Sesa
Dr. Natalie Naylor
Dr. Robert Gilmore

Pastor
Director, Ministry of Music
Clerk of Session
Treasurer

Kita de Sesa is our Soprano soloist.

Our guest musician today is Gary Lorentzson, soloist.

We welcome to the pulpit today the Rt. Rev. Br. Mark D'Alessio.

Assisting in today's service is Mary Matos.

Refreshments Host for today is Maya Leibfreid.

March Birthdays

3/4 Nora Shimmel
3/13 Carrie Gilmore

Next Sunday's scriptures:

John 3:1-17; Matthew 17:1-9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates

Wed, Feb. 25	10 AM	Session Meeting
Wed, Feb. 25	12 PM	Cemetery Committee Meeting

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Wendy Boer	Helen Lockman
Ira Cooper	Katie Zarghami
Cynthia Randall	Dawn and John de Sesa
Gary B. de Sesa	Sam Rizzo
Graziella Girardi	Emmie Shoch
Judy Mastrangelo & Family	Regina Maria
Ray Peres	Gerry Catalanello
Sylvia McAdams	Richie Miranda
Stefania Cecchini	Alex Palumbo
Rick Collins and Family	Family of Steven Panzella
Family of Janine Francolini	Marianne Wagner Rizzo
Chet Scire	William Cornell
Lawrence Topel	Willy Geddish

We pray for PEACE in the world and especially the Middle East and a just resolution between Ukraine and Russia along with all victims and their families from the Gaza-Israeli conflict and all nations that are at war. We pray for all families who are in need, and those who are grieving their loved ones.