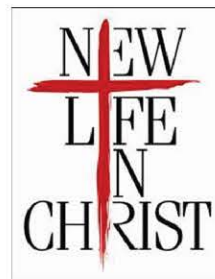


Lent Journey 2025



Day 5, Monday, March 10

THEME

Into the Wilderness, Holding onto Christ

When Jesus was led into the wilderness, He faced every temptation and stood firm for Himself and all of us. His victory in the wilderness assures us that no trial, temptation, or desolate place is beyond His reach. As we journey through our own wilderness seasons, we cling to Christ, recognizing that He has gone before us, overcome for us, and now walks beside us. His strength becomes our strength, and His triumph is our hope. Even in the wilderness, we are never alone. His vicarious humanity means He understands our struggles and has triumphed on our behalf. Let us hold on to Christ, our source of strength and hope, knowing that even in the wilderness, He leads us toward life, peace, and restoration.

Can you identify a time when you felt alone in a wilderness season? How might the truth that Christ walks with you change how you view that experience? What are some practical ways to remind yourself that Christ's triumph over sin and temptation is our triumph?

FIRST READING: PSALM 23

- The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SECOND READING: MATTHEW 11: 28-30

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



PRAYER FOR NEW LIFE: OUR MISSION

PRAY about living our mission statement:

We believe in the five purposes of the Church as given in the Great Commandment and in the Great Commission: Worship, Fellowship, Evangelism, Discipleship, and Ministry. In order to effectively love God, love each other, and love humanity our mission is to spiritually and physically nurture, encourage, and equip all believers to faithful servants and ministers of Jesus Christ in their daily lives and reach out to help people experience the unsurpassing and unending love and peace of Jesus Christ and the hope Father, Son, and Holy Spirit brings the world.

Does this reflect our mission now?

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Prayer for North America and the Caribbean: El Salvador, Falklands, French Guiana, Greenland

GCI MESSAGE

Stress could be defined as "Striving To Remain Extra Self Sufficient." Every single day we are given a choice to be extra self-sufficient or to trust God to be all sufficient for us. Many of us are so accustomed to striving every day to protect and provide for ourselves we end up overthinking, worrying, and feeling anxious about things we have little to no control over. God wants us to stop striving alone and experience his salvation through resting and trusting in him. Pray for uninterrupted blocks of time to intentionally tune your awareness and experience the presence of our ever-present God. Let the inner and outer noise go and simply be with God.

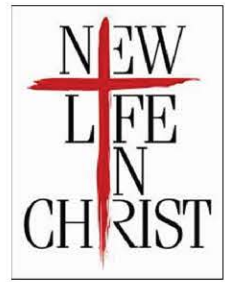


PRAYER FOR: SPIRITUAL HEALTH

Lord Jesus,

You who lived fully in our humanity, yet without sin— We thank You for being our strength and our hope. We pray for all believers, that we might draw from Your perfect life. Finding courage in Your victory over temptation and peace in Your steadfast love. May Your perfect humanity be our source of spiritual strength, Lifting us when we are weary and guiding us when we feel lost. And in our struggles, Your triumph may bring us hope. In Your holy name, we pray,

Lent Journey 2025



Day 6, Tuesday, March 11

THEME

"One Thing is Needful," Practicing His Presence

When Jesus was in the wilderness, surrounded by temptation and isolation, He remained anchored in the presence of His Father. Despite hunger, weariness, and the lure of worldly power, He held fast to the one thing needful—abiding in God's Word and presence. In our own wilderness seasons, distractions and trials press in, but we are invited to practice Christ's presence. He is not distant but a present help, offering strength and guidance. When everything feels uncertain, staying close to Jesus is our safe harbor. His presence fills us with peace, and His victory is our strength.

How can we better cultivate a heart that continually consents to God's presence and action in our lives?

The one thing truly needed is to remain fully present, attentive to God in each moment no matter what we are doing. This requires a willing heart, consenting to God's presence and allowing His action in our lives.

FIRST READING: PSALM 27:4

- One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple..

SECOND READING: LUKE 10:41

41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one.



PRAYER FOR NEW LIFE: OUR VISION

PRAY about living our vision statement:

At New Life in Christ, it is our desire to be obedient to the commands of Jesus by being a place to belong (inviting, welcoming, and compassionate to anyone no matter where they are on their spiritual journey) and a place to become (equipping everyone to become all that God wants them to be – fully engaged in the mission of Jesus Christ.)

Does this reflect our vision now?

PRAYER FOR: THE PERSECUTED

We lift up our brothers and sisters who face persecution for their faith. Grant them courage, peace, and unwavering hope. May Your presence be their strength in trials, And Your Spirit their comfort in isolation. Shield them with Your love, and provide for their needs. Remind them they are not forgotten but deeply valued in Your kingdom. May their witness shine brightly, even in darkness, And draw others to Your saving grace. Strengthen their hearts with Your victory over suffering, And give them the joy that cannot be taken away. We ask this in Your powerful and compassionate name, Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

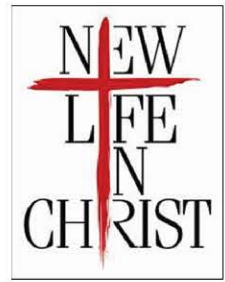
Prayer for North America and the Caribbean: Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti

GCI: THE TRINITY

God, by the testimony of Scripture, is one divine Being in three eternal, co-essential, yet distinct Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The One God may be known only in the Three and the Three may be known only as the one true God, good, omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent, and immutable in his covenant love for humanity. He is Creator of heaven and earth, Sustainer of the universe, and Author of human salvation. Though transcendent, God freely and in divine love, grace and goodness involves himself with humanity directly and personally in Jesus Christ, that humanity, by the Spirit, might share in his eternal life as his children.

([Mark 12:29](#); [Matthew 28:19](#); [John 14:9](#); [1 John 4:8](#); [Romans 5:8](#); [Titus 2:11](#); [Hebrews 1:2-3](#); [1 Peter 1:2](#); [Galatians 3:26](#))

Lent Journey 2025



Day 7, Wednesday, March 12

THEME

Surrender- Let Go and Let God

In Psalm 22, David cries out in deep anguish, feeling abandoned yet ultimately trusting God's deliverance. Likewise, in Luke 4:1-3, Jesus, led by the Spirit into the wilderness, faces temptation but surrenders fully to the Father's will. True surrender is not passive resignation but active trust—letting go of control and letting God lead. It means releasing our fears, anxieties, and desires, knowing God is faithful. When we surrender, we echo Christ's example, embracing vulnerability with confidence that God is present and at work. In the wilderness of life, surrender opens us to His provision, strength, and perfect love.

The first temptation strikes at a legitimate need—physical hunger and our need for safety and security. Our victory in His victory is in His refusal to satisfy His needs outside of God's will, demonstrating complete trust in the Father. By surrendering like Christ, we let go of the urgency to control outcomes and embrace a posture of trust and openness to God's perfect provision. **How can we surrender in Light of Christ's Victory?**

FIRST READING: PSALM 22:1-2, 19-21

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. 19 But you, Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me. 20 Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. 21 Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

SECOND READING: LUKE 4:1-3

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted[a] by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"



PRAYER FOR NEW LIFE: OUR FUTURE

PRAY about our future as a congregation of GCI

We thank You for Your victory over sin, temptation, and death. As we look to the future of our congregation, New Life in Christ, We pray that Your triumph would guide and sustain us. May our worship be a true reflection of Your glory, Drawing us deeper into Your presence and transforming our hearts. Lead us by Your Spirit into new seasons of growth, Strengthen our unity, and empower us to share Your love with others. We surrender our plans to You, trusting in Your wisdom and grace. May Your victory be our foundation and our hope. In Your mighty name, Amen.

PRAYER FOR: RELATIONSHIPS

Heavenly Father, We thank You for the perfect love and unity within the Holy Trinity. May this divine relationship inspire all relationships in the world, Help all to live with love, grace, and humility, reflecting the harmony of Your triune nature. Bring healing where relationships are broken, reconciliation where there is division, And understanding where there is conflict. Guide us to honor one another, celebrating the beauty of diversity and unity in the Trinity. May our relationships mirror the love and self-giving of the Trinity, In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

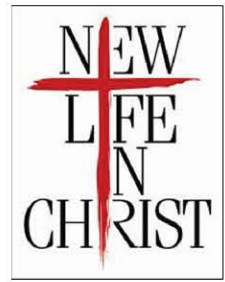
Prayer for North America and the Caribbean: Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat,

GCI: THE FATHER

God the Father is the first Person of the triune God, of whom the Son is eternally begotten and from whom the Holy Spirit eternally proceeds through the Son. The Father, who made all things seen and unseen through the Son, sends the Son for our salvation and gives the Holy Spirit for our regeneration and adoption as children of God.

(John 1:18; Romans 15:6; Colossians 1:15-16; John 3:16; 14:26; 15:26; Romans 8:14-17; Acts 17:28)

Lent Journey 2025



Day 8, Thursday, March 13

THEME

True Worship

In the second temptation, Satan offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He will bow down and worship him. Jesus responds, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" This temptation exposes our human tendency to seek power, control, and worldly affirmation. However, Jesus, as the true worshiper, perfectly embodies worship of the Father, not for personal gain but in self-giving love and obedience. Our call is not to bow to the false gods of society but to enter into Jesus' perfect worship of the Father, participating in His true and faithful devotion.

The second temptation reveals our deep-seated desire for power and control. Christ, in His perfect worship of the Father, invites us to find security not in dominance but in surrender. Living in Christ's victory and trusting God's sovereignty allows us to release our grip on control and align our desires with His will. **This week, when faced with a situation where you feel the need to control, intentionally pause, pray, and ask God to help you trust Him.**

FIRST READING: PSALM 42:9-11

I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?" 10 My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?" 11 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

SECOND READING: LUKE 4:5-8

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours." 8 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'

GCI: THE SON

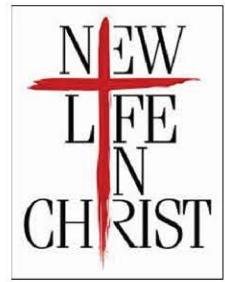
The Son of God is the second Person of the triune God, eternally begotten of the Father. He is the Word and the express image of the Father. The Father created all things through the Son, and the Son sustains all things by his word. He was sent by the Father to be God revealed in the flesh for our salvation, Jesus Christ. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, fully God and fully human, two natures in one Person. He is the Son of God and Lord of all, worthy of worship, honor and reverence. As the prophesied Savior of humanity, he suffered and died for all human sin, was raised bodily from the dead, and ascended to heaven. Taking on our broken and alienated humanity, he has included the entire human race in his right relationship with the Father, so that in his regeneration of our humanity we share in his sonship, being adopted as God's own children in the power of the Spirit. As our representative and substitute, he stands in for all humanity before the Father, providing the perfect human response to God on our behalf and reconciling humanity to the Father. He will come again in glory as King of kings over all nations.

(John 1:1, 10, 14; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:3; John 3:16; Titus 2:13; Matthew 1:20; Acts 10:36; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Titus 3:4-5; Hebrews 2:9; 7:25; Galatians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:14; Ephesians 1: 9-10; Colossians 1:20; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:8; Revelation 19:16)

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Prayer for North America and the Caribbean: Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru

Lent Journey 2025



Day 9, Friday, March 14

THEME

Whole Faith

In the third temptation (Luke 4:9-12), the devil challenges Jesus to throw Himself from the temple, twisting Scripture to provoke a display of power and force God's hand. Jesus responds, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test," demonstrating unwavering trust in God without manipulation or doubt. Similarly, 1 Peter 5:8-9 calls us to be "alert and of sober mind," resisting the devil who prowls like a roaring lion. Jesus' victory over this temptation shows us that true strength lies not in testing God but in standing firm in faith, trusting Him completely.

When circumstances make you want to test God or take control, what practical steps can you take to resist this temptation and instead stand firm in faith, trusting God's perfect timing and plan?

FIRST READING: 1 PETER 5:8-9

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

SECOND READING: LUKE 4:9-13

9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; 11 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." 12 Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.



PRAYER FOR NEW LIFE: OUR FUTURE

PRAY about our future as a congregation of GCI

We thank You for Your victory over sin, temptation, and death. As we look to the future of our congregation, New Life in Christ, We pray that Your triumph would guide and sustain us. May our worship be a true reflection of Your glory, Drawing us deeper into Your presence and transforming our hearts. Lead us by Your Spirit into new seasons of growth, Strengthen our unity, and empower us to share Your love with others. We surrender our plans to You, trusting in Your wisdom and grace. May Your victory be our foundation and our hope. In Your mighty name, Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Prayer for North America and the Caribbean: Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Pierre and Miquelon

GCI: THE HOLY SPIRIT

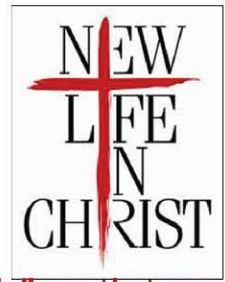
The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the triune God, eternally proceeding from the Father through the Son. He is the Comforter promised by Jesus Christ, who unites us with the Father and the Son, and transforms us into the image of Christ. The Spirit works out in us the regeneration Christ accomplished for us, and by continual renewal empowers us to share in the Son's glorious and eternal communion with the Father as his children. The Holy Spirit is the Source of inspiration and prophecy throughout the Scriptures, and the Source of unity and communion in the church. He provides spiritual gifts for the work of the gospel, and is the Christian's constant Guide into all truth. (Matthew 28:19; John 14:16; 15:26; Acts 2:38; John 14:17, 26; 1 Peter 1:2; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Romans 8:16; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 16:13)



PRAYER FOR: MOTHERS

Lord Jesus, We lift up mothers around the world, asking that Your strength and peace surround them. When challenges arise, may they resist fear and doubt, standing firm in faith. Grant them wisdom, patience, and joy in every season. Help them to find rest in Your love and assurance in Your victory. May they feel Your presence guiding them, providing strength and hope. Bless them richly, and let Your grace overflow in their lives and in their families. In Your victorious name, Amen.

Lent Journey 2025



Day 10, Saturday, March 15

THEME

Rest and Action

This theme explores the balance between spiritual rest and Spirit-led action, drawing on the example of Jesus in the wilderness. His victory over temptation in Luke 4:1-13 demonstrates how being spiritually "still" before God empowers decisive action against evil. Jesus' responses to temptation—rooted in Scripture and trust in God's provision—show how rest and action in the Spirit are inseparable.

How can I practice stillness before God daily so that my actions flow from His strength and not my own?

How can I, like Christ, remain spiritually at rest even when I am called to act with boldness and perseverance?

FIRST READING: PSALM 46:10

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 12:1-3

2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

GCI: HUMANITY

God created humanity male and female in the image and likeness of God. God blessed them, telling them to multiply and fill the earth. In love, the Lord gave humans stewardship over all the earth and its creatures. Typified by Adam who sinned, humanity lives in sin against its Creator, thus spreading suffering and death in the world. Despite human sinfulness, humanity continues in and is defined by having been created according to God's image. Thus all humans, collectively and individually, deserve love, honor, and respect. The eternally perfect image of God is the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the last Adam. God creates through Jesus Christ the one new humanity over which sin and death have no power. In Christ, humanity bears perfectly the image of God, and in union with Christ, humanity is included in the relationship Christ has with the Father. (Genesis 1:26-28; Romans 5:12-21; Colossians 1:15; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 3:18; Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; 47-49; 1 John 3:2; Colossians 3:3-4)

PRAYER FOR: HANDS FOR CHRIST

We thank You for the beautiful community of our Deaf brothers and sisters in Staten Island, whom You have called and set apart for Your glorious purpose. You see their hearts, their hands, and their devotion to You, and You cherish their expressions of faith through American Sign Language. We pray for Pastor Mary's vision to create a space where Deaf participants can worship with confidence, Empower them as they pursue an ASL Bible, and provide the resources, wisdom, and inspiration needed to bring Your Word into their language. Bless their leaders, their community, and all those who support this vision. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos