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February 14, 2016

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Valentine's Day

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all.

All points marked \* those who are able are invited to stand.)

## Approach

Gathering Song VU #357 – *“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”*

Presentation of Symbol

Children's Time / the Lord's Prayer

Call to Worship

One: For some of us, it was tempting to “sleep in” this morning.

**All: But God has called us to this place, to hear God's word, to open our hearts in prayer and praise, and to seek direction for our lives.**

One: There are many temptations placed in front of us. We are called to be strong and place our trust in God.

**All: God is always faithful to us, comforting, guiding, lifting us. AMEN.**

\* Hymn VU #390 – *“How Great the Mystery of Faith”* (tune VU #589)

Prayer of Approach and Confession

**Loving God, the temptations of the world loom large before us. We are enticed, cajoled, and “sweet-talked” into moving from lives of service to lives of self-centeredness. We need your healing love. As we enter this Lenten season, we are reminded of our weakness and our need for your strength. We ask your forgiveness when we succumb to the temptations of this world, when we tread paths that are contrary to your will. We ask your forgiveness when we fail to look beyond our own desires to see another's need. We ask for your presence in our wilderness wanderings. As you resisted the temptations in the wilderness, help us to place our trust in you, that we may be strong in our faith and confident in our service to you through serving others. AMEN**

Assurance of Pardon

\* Hymn VU #108 – *“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights”*

## The Word

📖 Scripture Reading - Romans 10: 8b-13  
Luke 4: 1-13

**I'm Hungry, Lord; I'm Hungry, Lord;  
My soul cries out for Thee,  
The Living Bread, the Water of Life,  
The One who quickens me.**

Meditation – “What if?”

(a quiet time for your personal reflection and prayer)

Hymn – As Pants the Hart

**As pants the hart for cooling streams  
In parched and barren ways,  
So longs my soul, O God for you  
And your refreshing grace.**

**For you, my God, the living God,  
My thirsty spirit pines;  
O when shall I behold your face,  
O Majesty divine?**

**Why restless, why cast down, my soul?  
Hope still, and you shall sing  
The praise of one who is your God,  
Your health's eternal spring.**

## The Response

Announcements

\* Offering / Response (VU #545)

**You nourish us with food, O God,  
For body and for soul;  
Our love and service is our thanks,  
For life that's free and whole,  
For life that's free and whole**

Pastoral Prayer

\* Hymn VU #215 – *“Hope of the World”* (tune VU #491)

Benediction / Response

**The Lord lift you up, the Lord take your hand,  
The Lord lead you forth, and cause you to stand,  
Secure in God's word, seeking God's face,  
Abounding in love, abiding in grace.**