**Community Congregational Church of Clinton Heights, UCC**

**February 26, 2023**

**Rev. Kathy Johnson**

**Guest pianist, Rev. Barb Floryshak**

**Welcome**

**No matter who you are or where you on life’s journey, you are welcome here!**

**Call to Worship**

One: Come together, joining hands and hearts.

**All: Let our hands be links of chain**

One: Which hold our lives together

**All: Not a chain of bondage but a silver cord of strength**

One: A ribbon of love and faith and community

**All: Giving us slack to sail the wind**

One: Yet holding us in a mystical embrace

**All: That we may be alone but never lonely**

One: That we may be together but never lost in the crowd

**All: That we may be one without forfeiting uniqueness**

One: Come together, joining hands and hearts

**All: And let the spirit of God and the human spirit**

One: Flow in each one and through us all

**All: As we gather here to share this time and space**

**And as we walk together on the journey. Amen.**

**Opening Prayer: Dear God of All, lead us on our journey we call life. Do not lead us astray, but point us in the right direction, the direction of Your Way, Your Will.**

**In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

**\*Hymn – Forty Days and Forty Nights, 179**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Scripture Readings: Matthew 4:1-11**

**\*Hymn -** Ancient Words

**Sermon: Camino**

**Prayers for others and ourselves**

**Lord’s Prayer** (using debts/debtors)

**\*Anthem**

**Offering**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Hymn Lord, Who Throughout these 40 Days, 180**

**Announcements**

**Commission and Benediction Postlude**

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**Manage your giving online:**

Community Congregational Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1) Visit the church website at **www.clintonheightsucc.org**,

2) Click on the **Donate Now** button,

3) Click on the **Create Profile** button, then

4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contribution.

**Matthew 4:1-11**

**1-3**Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Devil was ready to give it. Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, which the Devil took advantage of in the first test: “Since you are God’s Son, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread.”

**4**Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God’s mouth.”

**5-6**For the second test the Devil took him to the Holy City. He sat him on top of the Temple and said, “Since you are God’s Son, jump.” The Devil goaded him by quoting Psalm 91: “He has placed you in the care of angels. They will catch you so that you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone.”

**7**Jesus countered with another citation from Deuteronomy: “Don’t you dare test the Lord your God.”

**8-9**For the third test, the Devil took him to the peak of a huge mountain. He gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth’s kingdoms, how glorious they all were. Then he said, “They’re yours—lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they’re yours.”

**10**Jesus’ refusal was curt: “Beat it, Satan!” He backed his rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God, and only him. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.”

**11**The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus’ needs.