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

**March 5, 2023**

**Rev. Kathy Johnson**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship from Psalm 121**
One: I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?
**All: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**One: God will not let your foot be moved; God who keeps you will not slumber.
**All: God who keeps us will neither slumber nor sleep.**One: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
**All: The sun shall not strike us by day, nor the moon by night.**One: The LORD will keep you from all evil; God will keep your life.
**All: The LORD will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore. Amen.**

**Opening Prayer: Dear Mother-Father-Creator God, as we gather here today at this holy time, be with us in our hearts and minds and souls. May the messages we receive be the messages you send. We are here as your servants. Amen.**

**Hymn** **–** Here at Thy Table, Lord, 384 (or 334)

**Communion**

**Children’s Sermon: Sweet Temptation**

**Scripture Readings:** Luke 4:1-13

**Hymn -** Ancient Words

**Sermon: The Devil Made Me Do It**

**Special Music: Somebody Bigger than You and I**

**Ellen Dean Whited**

**Prayers for others and ourselves**

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

**Offering**

**Doxology**

**Hymn –** Spirit, 249

**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.

Luke 4:1-13

**4 1-2**Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when the time was up he was hungry.

**3**The Devil, playing on his hunger, gave the first test: “Since you’re God’s Son, command this stone to turn into a loaf of bread.”

**4**Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to really live.”

**5-7**For the second test he led him up and spread out all the kingdoms of the earth on display at once. Then the Devil said, “They’re yours in all their splendor to serve your pleasure. I’m in charge of them all and can turn them over to whomever I wish. Worship me and they’re yours, the whole works.”

**8**Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.”

**9-11**For the third test the Devil took him to Jerusalem and put him on top of the Temple. He said, “If you are God’s Son, jump. It’s written, isn’t it, that ‘he has placed you in the care of angels to protect you; they will catch you; you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone’?”

**12**“Yes,” said Jesus, “and it’s also written, ‘Don’t you dare tempt the Lord your God.’”

**13**That completed the testing. The Devil retreated temporarily, lying in wait for another opportunity.

