

Open the Eyes Of My Heart

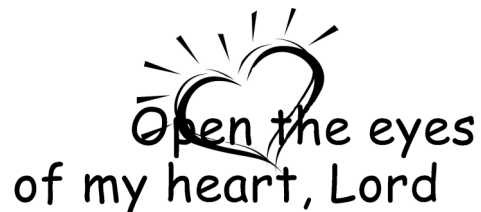
By Paul Baloche

Old Orchard Church

January 22, 2012 ~ 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

Words to song are in the printed copy.

See printed copy for art work.



We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil....Jesus had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God...Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

—From Hebrews 2

Christ Our Brother, Sorely Tempted: Celebrating the Sympathy of God With Us

How awesome a Savior, how humble a Friend!

In the wilderness he fights for us;
He, the Older Brother, knowing our weakness,
On our behalf feels the lure of evil.

He feels it for us,
And fights it for us.
Indeed, for love's sake,
He had to be made like us in all things—
Even in this.

He knows temptation from the inside:
its sweetness,
its sinister confusions.
But he trusted his way through it.

Jesus won what Adam lost;
He undertook our weakness,
that we might be strong in his strength.
Alleluia!



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 3:1-8;

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:1-13

Sermon

"The Sanctity of Human Life: Foundations in Creation"

Psalms 24:1-2

Ron Lutjens, pastor, preaching

Christ's Temptation And Ours

Satan regularly tries to persuade us of the very things he tempted Christ to believe: that we need some material thing, person, or situation more than we need the will and words of God in our lives; that the way to get established in the world is precisely to abandon our supreme loyalty to God; that we can presume upon God's power and protection—even to the point of using him—because, after all, he's made promises to us. These may not sound persuasive in the abstract, but in the concrete circumstance of temptation we often fall for these deceptions. So what do we do?

Too often we panic, or get tricked and give in, or crumple up in discouragement. But we can take heart! Where Adam was tempted and failed, Christ was tempted and succeeded. In passing that test of obedience in the wilderness—and in every other way that Satan sought his downfall—Christ remained faithful to the commitment he made to his Father to redeem us forever from evil. How wonderful to know that just as the devil was not able to snatch the Son out of the Father's hand during his trying 40 days in the wilderness, so he will not be able to snatch us, Christ's younger brothers and sisters, out of the Father's hand. It was Christ's ability to withstand Satan's cunning which guarantees that ultimately, we will be able to withstand it, too.

John Subhan, an Indian convert to Christ from the Sufi sect of Islam back in the late 1930's, explained the relevance of Jesus' victory over Satan's temptations this way:

In accepting Christianity I have accepted the leadership of One who is able to change life and give strength in weakness. He enables me to overcome things which mar and destroy life, and gives peace in my heart and grace to live victoriously, and grants the rights of citizenship in heaven. I find that Christianity is Christ, and that to be a Christian means to live in his fellowship, so that when faced with temptation and assailed on every side by the rising tide of doubts and despair or grief, it is enough to look into his face and yield all to his safe keeping, and he does the rest. My manifold needs met by his manifold grace....When tempted to bad temper I can draw on his patience, when to harsh judgment on his gentleness, and when to impurity I can make his dazzling purity my shield and shelter.

—Ron Lutjens

