

Greenbelt Community Church

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100th Anniversary of Black History Month

First Sunday in Lent

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

February 22, 2026
100th Anniversary of Black History Month
First Sunday in Lent

Greenbelt Community Church is a community centered around the belief that we are all created in the image of God. We welcome everyone seeking God's presence, in any of the ways that you may identify... by economic class, by race, by national origin, by gender identity/expression, by age, by physical or mental ability... whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you into full participation here. We rejoice that you chose to worship with us, today, as we extend an invitation to live out the extravagant welcome of Christ. Together, we are listening for God's still speaking voice. WELCOME, People of God!

A special welcome to our first-time and returning visitors! Please let us know you were here with us, today: Contact: office@greenbeltucc.org

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Aubra Love

***Call To Worship**

Pastor: Artist of souls, you sculpted a people for yourself

People: **Out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting.**

Pastor: Help us as we take up your invitation

People: **To prayer and simplicity, that the discipline of these forty days**

Pastor: May sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship,

People: **And whet our thirst for the living water you offer through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn: AAAH #113 "Total Praise", (Richard Smallwood, 1948-2025)**

***Passing the Peace**

Time with Young Disciples

Pastor Aubra Love

Anthem: How Sweet the Name by J. Newton and D. Mengel

The Greenbelt Community Church Choir

Scripture: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 The Message
Louise Piper, Lay Reader

God took the Man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order. God commanded the Man, "You can eat from any tree in the garden, except from the Tree-of-Knowledge-of-Good-and-Evil. Don't eat from it. The moment you eat from that tree, you're dead." The serpent was clever, more clever than any wild animal God had made. He spoke to the Woman: "Do I understand that God told you not to eat from any tree in the garden?" The Woman said to the serpent, "Not at all. We can eat from the trees in the garden. It's only about the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'Don't eat from it; don't even touch it or you'll die.'" The serpent told the Woman, "You won't die. God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you'll see what's really going on. You'll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil." When the Woman saw that the tree looked like good eating and realized what she would get out of it—she'd know everything!—she took and ate the fruit and then gave some to her husband, and he ate. Immediately the two of them did "see what's really going on"—saw themselves naked! They sewed fig leaves together as makeshift clothes for themselves.

Unison Prayer

Louise Piper, Lay Reader

Beloved of God, in this season of repentance and healing,
we accept God's invitation to be ever mindful of the needs of others,
offering our prayers on behalf of all people in the church and in the world.

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11 The Message
Pastor Aubra Love

Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Tempter 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 Tempter took advantage of in the first test: "Since you are a Child of God, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread." Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God's mouth." For the second test the Tempter took him to the Holy City. The Tempter sat Jesus on top of the Temple and said, "Since you are a Child of God, jump." The Tempter goaded Jesus by quoting Psalm 91: "God 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." Jesus countered with another citation from Deuteronomy: "Don't you dare test the Lord your God." For the third test, the Tempter took him to the peak of a huge mountain. The Tempter gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth's kingdoms, how glorious they all were. Then the Tempter said, "They're yours—lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they're yours." Jesus' refusal was curt: "Beat it, Satan!" Jesus backed his rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: "Worship the Lord your God, and only God. Serve God with absolute single heartedness." The Test was over. The Tempter left. And in the Tempter's place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus' needs.

Sermon: "After Passing Your Test"

Pastor Aubra Love

***Pulpit Hymn: LEVS #129 "I Am Thine, O Lord"**

The Community at Prayer

Pastor Aubra Love

(Joys and Concerns, Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer, choosing to use debts/debtors, or trespasses/trespases, or sins/sinners as familiar to you)

On our Prayer List: Ken C; Marty F; Anne G; Gil L; Butch N; Sue N; Thyra P; Kenny P; Joyce P; Rhonda; William and Phyllis S; Jim T; Lora T; Gwen V; We pray for Mike C. and Carla C. as Mike ventures on a peace mission to Palestine. We pray for Mark and Liisa concerning the transition of his mother, Beverly. We are in continuous prayer for all those thousands who have experienced job losses...loss of loved ones by separation and death. Please know that you do not mourn alone. We pray for healing during this season of urban occupation by military reserve forces. We pray for women and children who have been made homeless due to intimate partner violence.

Our prayers are with all young persons who have been made homeless due to gender identity or gender expression; We pray, O God, for our mental health warriors (those struggling and those helping). Our prayers are with our veterans who may return from their service with no place to call home and no circle of love; We pray for the formerly incarcerated experiencing re-entry obstacles and who cannot find work; Our prayers are for all those around the world dying of starvation and AIDs due to the closure of USAID; healing for Ukraine and the Gaza peninsula. We ask protection for all whose freedoms are being taken by the government; We pray for the healing of our nation and a reign of domestic peace and a measure of civility.

We pray for the Seventh Day Adventist congregation that shares our space at Greenbelt Community Church. God, in your tender mercies, here our prayers.

The Lord's Prayer

(in the words that are familiar to you)

"Holy God, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Realm come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Realm, the power and the glory. Forever. Amen."

Prayer Response

Invitation to the Offering

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

- Matthew 4:4

(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through the offering plates during the worship service; by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving at greenbeltcommunitychurch.org/)

Offertory

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God, for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. AMEN.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Louise Piper, Lay Reader

God of mercy, your word was the sure defense of Jesus in his time of testing. Minister to us in the wilderness of our temptation, and free us so that we may serve you well into life everlasting. Amen

***Closing Hymn: AAAH #541 “Walk Together Children”**

***Commissioning and Blessing**

Pastor Aubra Love

***Choral Response**

***Postlude**