

Sunday, February 22 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

TODAY'S FOCUS: TEMPTATION. How do we stand up to temptation? Does God lead us into it or out of it, or both?

PRELUDE — Brendan Krueger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Lin

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST – Lin

***OPENING HYMN** UMH #129 "Give to the Winds Thy Fears"

1. Give to the winds thy fears; hope and be undismayed.
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears, God shall lift up thy head.

2. Through waves and clouds and storms, God gently clears thy way;
Wait thou God:s time: so shall this night soon end in joyous day.

3. Leave to God's sovereign sway to choose and to command;
So shalt thou, wondering own that way, how wise, ho strong this hand.

4. Let us in life, in death, thy steadfast truth declare,
And publish with our latest breath thy love and guardian care.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** — Bonnie Clark

One: Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

Many: We follow, trusting in God's mercy.

One: We witness Jesus resist the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

Many: We recognize God's mercy at work in the face of temptation.

One: We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

Many: We pay attention to God's merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.

One: We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone—God is with us.

Many: We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025. Used by permission

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

SPECIAL MUSIC — Choir

HYMN TFWS #2233 “Where Children Belong”

CHILDREN’S STORY — Sue Mercer

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:1-11 — Bonnie Clark

⁴ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. 3 The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

MESSAGE “Resistance” Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN TFWS #2105 “Jesus Tempted in the Desert”

1. Jesus, tempted in the desert, lonely, hungry, filled with dread;
“Use your power,” the tempter tells him; “Turn these barren rocks to bread!”
“Not alone by bread,” he answers, “Can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us is our deepest hunger stilled.

2. Jesus, tempted at the temple, high above its ancient wall:
"Throw yourself from lofty turret; angels wait to break your fall!"
Jesus shuns such empty marvels, feats that fickle crowds request:
"God, whose grace protects, preserves us, we must never vainly test."

3. Jesus, tempted on the mountain by the lure of vast domain:
"Fall before me! Be my servant! Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!"
Jesus sees the dazzling vision, turns his eyes another way:
"God alone deserves our homage! God alone will I obey!"

4. When we face temptation's power, lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour, come and be our living bread
By your grace, protect, preserve us, lest we fall your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices, be the Word we hear, obey.

OFFERTORY — Brendan Krueger or Scott: vocal solo TBD

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** — Bonnie Clark

ALL: Ever-present God, in this moment of giving, we offer not just our resources, but our trust that you are already at work, shaping us through challenge, strengthening us through sacrifice, and surrounding us with unseen angels. Use these gifts to bring hope where there is hunger, healing where there is pain, and light where there is despair. May what we give reflect our desire to walk more closely with you, even in the hard places. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER — Lin [are there any joys or concerns today?]
All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** UMH #378 "Amazing Grace" (vs. 1-4)

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

***BENEDICTION — Lin**

POSTLUDE — Brendan Krueger

Prelude/Postlude—Brendan Krueger
Offertory— Scott? Or Brendan
Organ — Betsy Foushee
Liturgist —Bonnie Clark
Special Music: Choir

Accomp.— Brendan Krueger
Song Leader — Bonnie Clark
Violin — Rae Ann Norell
Children's Message— Sue Mercer