



*He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan;
and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.*

Harmony United Methodist Church
February 21, 2021
The Wilderness

GATHERING MUSIC
WELCOME
PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

After he was baptized by John,

Jesus went by himself to the wilderness where he was tempted.

Over forty days in the desert, Jesus was tempted
to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful.

Today, we begin to journey with Jesus through the season of Lent,
which brings us to face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.

Let us worship God and walk the journey together,
seeking the spirit as our guide and companion along the way.

OPENING PRAYER

God, you know our hearts. You have knitted our innermost being and you know our deepest desires, fears and worries. Help us to journey during this Lenten season into a new awareness of your presence in our lives. Save us from our own temptations, so that we may more freely follow you. Amen

*Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins
and close by thee to stay.*

*As thou with Satan didst contend,
and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
in thee to conquer sin.*

*As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live
by thy most holy word.*

*And through these days of penitence,
and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.*

*Abide with us, that so, this life
of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jessica Randall

MORNING PRAYER

Steve Evick

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Steve Evick

SPECIAL MUSIC

Shari Laraway

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of all Wisdom and Glory, grace us today with the presence of your Spirit that we might hear today's word with understanding and imagination. This we pray in your holy and good name. Amen.

PSALM 25:1-10

25:1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

25:2 O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

25:3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

25:4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

25:5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

25:6 Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

25:7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

25:8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

25:9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

25:10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:9-15

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The Temptation of Jesus

¹²The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Jesus Begins His Ministry

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

SERMON

The Wilderness

Pastor Debra

SPECIAL MUSIC

Purified

Harmony Choir

OFFERTORY PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Debra

God of all Mercy and Abundance, we thank you for these gifts and promise to use them to the best of our abilities as we follow you on this Lenten path. Through the power of your Spirit, may these gifts be used to bring renewal and resurrection to those who need it most. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

FWS 2112

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley;
he had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him;
he had to walk it by himself.*

*We must walk this lonesome valley;
we have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us;
we have to walk it by ourselves.*

*You must go and stand your trial;
you have to stand it by yourself.
Oh, nobody else can stand it for you;
you have to stand it by yourself.*

BENEDICTION

May the God of Grace and Glory go with you as you follow this Lenten path. Wherever it takes you, and to whomever it takes you, may you go with the blessing of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, both now and forever. Amen.