



The Gift Keeps Giving—January 15, 2023

“The Gift of Wilderness”

Matthew 4:1-11

**THORNDALE
United Methodist Church**

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All Are Welcome!

*"Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah
Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah
Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress,
the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.
You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah
I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.
Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. "*

Psalm 32

+Stand as you're able.

PRELUDE		Dave Kurtz
WELCOME & GREETING		Pastor Shauna
CENTERING	<i>Sweet, Sweet Spirit</i> (#334)	Dave Kurtz
+CALL TO WORSHIP		Cheryl Faust
Leader:	After he was baptized by John, Jesus went by himself to the wilderness where he was tempted.	
People:	Forty days in the desert, Jesus was tempted to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful.	
Leader:	We began this New Year remembering again that we have been baptized into a committed community. Today we recognize our journey with Jesus brings us to face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.	
People:	Let us worship God and walk the journey together, seeking the Holy Spirit as our guide and companion along the way.	
+OPENING PRAYER		Cheryl Faust
	Gracious God, you know our hearts. You have knitted our inner-most being and you know our deepest desires, fears and worries. Help us to journey during this season of Epiphany 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	
+OPENING PRAISE	<i>The Old Rugged Cross</i> (#504)	Dave Kurtz
	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>	
	<i>Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus</i>	
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE		Pat Moore

TIME OF PRAYER		Pastor Shauna
PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS		Pastor Shauna
OFFERTORY	<i>There is a Redeemer</i>	Dave Kurtz
+PRAYER OF DEDICATION		Cheryl Faust
<p>God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves; may we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen.</p>		
SCRIPTURE— Matthew 4:1-11		Cheryl Faust
<p>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 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.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.</p>		
	Leader:	This is the word of the Lord.
	People:	Thanks be to God.
MESSAGE	<i>"The Gift of Wilderness"</i>	Pastor Shauna
+CLOSING HYMN	<i>Cares Chorus</i>	Dave Kurtz
+BENEDICTION		Pastor Shauna
POSTLUDE		Dave Kurtz

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

PASTOR	Rev. Shauna K. Ridge	TECH TEAM	Josh Dwyer
MUSIC	Dave Kurtz		Terry Moore
LITURGIST	Cheryl Faust	USHER:	Cyndy Wiener
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	Pat Moore		