

# God Sees All

Matthew 4: 1 – 11

## ICE-BREAKERS

- 1 If you had to give up one comfort for 40 days like Jesus fasted in the wilderness, what would be the hardest thing for you to live without: coffee, social media, snacks, streaming, or something else?
- 2 In the wilderness story, the devil tempts Jesus with food, protection, and power. Which of those three do you think people today struggle with most, and why?

## SERMON BASED

- 1 What do Jesus' responses to Satan's temptations teach us about the difference between giving the "easy answer" and giving the "right answer"?
- 2 Why do you think Satan tempted Jesus most intensely when He was hungry, tired, and alone, and what does that reveal about how temptation often works in our own lives?

## BEYOND THE TEXT

- 1 When you are stressed, exhausted, or overwhelmed, what temptations do you most often give in to (anger, apathy, comfort, distraction, or silence), and what would it look like to respond the way Jesus did?
- 2 Where in your daily life is God calling you to "love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously," even if it makes you uncomfortable or requires you to speak up?



113 West Central Ave | Van Wert, OH 45891 | 419-238-0631 | vanwertfirst.net



# FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> 2026

*First Sunday of Lent*

10:30 AM

Whatever your circumstances and no matter where you have been, you matter to God and to us. *You belong here!* We pray your experience in our Worship today will be one that blesses you and uplifts your relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously**

# ORDER of WORSHIP

Hebrews 2:18 (NRSV)

*“Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.”*

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTENDANCE PAD AND PASS IT TO YOUR NEIGHBOR + THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE RISE

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** ..... Pastor Christian Taylor

**+ CALL TO WORSHIP** ..... Pastor Christian Taylor

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

**People: We follow, trusting in God’s mercy.**

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

**People: We recognize God’s mercy at work in the face of temptation.**

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

**People: We pay attention to God’s merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.**

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

**People: We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**PRELUDE** ..... Scott Turner, Piano

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* | arr. Craig Curry

**+ OPENING PRAYER** ..... Pastor Christian Taylor

Holy God, by the grace of Jesus Christ, you know the tests and trials we face. Journey with us through this wilderness. Come to us with ministers of healing and visit us with messengers of hope, so that we may return to you in faith, believing the good news of the gospel; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

**+ HYMN #110** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* | UMH

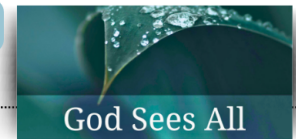
**TIME OF GREETING**

**CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN** ..... Courtney Wendel  
*Children are dismissed to AWE - preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

**CHORAL ANTHEM** ..... Chancel Choir  
*I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* | arr. Larry Shackley



**+ SCRIPTURE SERIES MESSAGE** ..... *Matthew 4: 1 – 11*



Jamie Ramos

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** ..... Pastor Christian Taylor

Leader: Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. The places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you, and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will:

**People: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

Leader: When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others:

**People: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

Leader: When we are tempted to use sensational means to increase people’s faith, rather than being guided by the humility of Christ:

**People: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

Leader: When we are tempted to use bribery to influence and control people:

**People: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

Leader: When we are tempted to manipulate you, O God, to satisfy our own needs:

**People: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

*Silence for Personal Confession*

**WORDS OF FORGIVENESS** ..... Pastor Christian Taylor

**+ SONG** *Just As I Am (I Come Broken)*



**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** ..... Pastor Christian Taylor

**OFFERTORY #433** *All Who Love and Serve Your City* | UMH

**+ DOXOLOGY #94** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* | UMH

**+ SPOKEN BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* | arr. Eleanor Whitsett

Place offerings in the wooden plates coming through the Pews, during the Offering song.

You are invited to be seated and enjoy the Postlude or leave quietly in peace.

**Thank you for worshipping with us, and for your continued generosity and support.**

<b>LEADERS OF TODAY’S WORSHIP</b>	<b>VIDEOGRAPHER</b> KURT MASSILLO	<b>MESSAGE</b> JAMIE RAMOS	<b>USHERS</b> NEIL SHAFFER	<b>PASTOR</b> CHRISTIAN TAYLOR
	<b>PROJECTIONIST</b> ELORA HOGAN	<b>CHILDREN’S CHAT</b> COURTNEY WENDEL	<b>DAVE LICHTLE, ASST.</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC</b> SCOTT TURNER
	<b>SOUND ENGINEER</b> ERIK FALK	<b>ACOLYTES</b> ETTA SCHAFFNER HEATHER KEEN	<b>SCREEN CREATORS</b> MARY ANN FALK	<b>WORSHIP LEADER</b> JEREMY LAUKHUF
			<b>JEREMY LAUKHUF</b>	
			<b>MELODY TAYLOR</b>	