

Sermon Musings

Luke 4:1-13



Jesus went to the wilderness - a place of wild beasts and demons; of roaming, tormented spirits; the dangerous meeting place of God and frail human beings; the strange abode of ministering angels. Here *the devil prowls like a roaring lion seeking souls to devour.*

In Lent, Christians are called again to the soul's desert, but unlike Advent, without John the Baptist for a guide. Rather, as John of the Cross wrote, we go forth with *no other light or guide than the one burning in my heart.*

Still dripping with the waters of the Jordan in which his cousin John has just baptized

him, Jesus sets off on a sojourn that continues his initiation into his public ministry. For forty days, Luke tells us, the devil besets Jesus with temptations. When he emerges from this wild space, when he has completed this liminal time of fasting and praying and wrestling and waiting, Jesus has a clarity that could not have come otherwise. It has taken a long time, this emptying, this clearing out, this letting go, of what doesn't belong in order to find what does.

When he emerges from this wild space, when he has completed this liminal time of fasting and praying and wrestling and waiting, Jesus has a clarity that could not have come otherwise. It has taken a long time, this emptying, this clearing out, this letting go of what doesn't belong in order to find what does.

~ Rev. Sheri



10785 Melody Drive, Northglenn, CO 80234 ~ 303-452-5478

*A Service for the Lord's Day
March 6, 2022 ~ 10:00 am
1st Sunday in Lent*

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

As the music begins, we invite you to use this time to make the transition from getting here to being here. Take these few minutes to silently prepare for worship and allow the Spirit to refresh you.

Prayer for the Day

I am not asking you to take this wilderness from me, to remove this place of starkness where I come to know the wildness within me, where I learn to call the names of the ravenous beasts that pace inside me, to finger the brambles that snake through my veins, to taste the thirst that tugs at my tongue. But send me tough angels, sweet wine, strong bread: just enough.

Gathering Music

Jeremy Kurn

Words of Welcome

Rev. Sheri Fry

Reflections by Candlelight

Marsha Morton

First Lenten Candle Extinguished

Find Peace in the broken pieces and let yourself be loved by God.

Hymn #336

We Gather Together

*Prayer of Confession

One: Let us draw near to God in spirit and truth. God of the liminal places, you draw us into the quietness of the desert so that we can encounter ourselves.

(continued)

Parts of the service in **bold** are for everyone to speak in unison.
Parts with an asterisk * mean that all are to stand in body or in spirit.

All: We confess that all too often we stubbornly cling to false images rather than face the necessity of change.

Silence

One: You call us into the emptiness of the desert so that we can confront our desires.

All: We confess that all too often we continue to choose our own comfort rather than serving the needs of others.

Silence

One: You drive us into the dangers of the desert so that we can engage with your kingdom.

All: We confess that all too often we prefer the smooth roads of safety over the perilous pathways of justice. Forgive us, O God, wherever we have chosen to be, or do, or dare less than you have asked of us; and as we walk on in the desert with you help us watch and wrestle with these things so that we might choose life over death.

The Peace

One: Like a tent in the wilderness the table of God stands open and ready as a place of sanctuary and safety, of hospitality and healing. So come, all you who are tired and travel-stained, footsore and famished; come with your fellow travelers and find companionship and comfort; for here Jesus who knows what it is to wander, watch and wrestle in desert places waits to meet us and welcome us in, offering us rest and restoration, solace and strength, for the journey still to come.

May the peace of God, the comforting peace of familiar presence, the untamed peace of wilderness places, the challenging peace of watching and wrestling, surround and shape your journey onwards.

All: May the peace of God be with us all.



GoodStuff@GoodShepherd



Your Church at Work

**FOOD
BANK**

Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 am - 11:45 am

Third Saturday of the month 9 am - 12 pm. Need donations of toilet paper and bar soap.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

March 8th - Will Jackson

March 9th - Hannah Bond

March 10th - David Blount

March 14th - Justin Diehl

Joys and Concerns



Please pray for those dealing with health issues: for Donna; Fran; Allen; Marion H.; Jane; Haylee; Jason; Tammy Vaugh; and Maxine; for all those grieving the loss of loved ones: for Gwen Thompson's family, whose daughter-in-law, Dana, dies last week; the Seibel family; Jean Cook's family; Burton Kugler's family; and for communities affected by COVID-19 or by human rights violations here in the United States and throughout the world; for the people who are experiencing conflict in the Ukraine; and for our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area.

Communion of the People

We will share the Sacrament of Communion with the Elders passing the Bread and the Juice on trays to the congregation. The Presbyterian tradition does not include a specific rite for first communion. Our parents decide when their children are ready to participate.

Communion Music

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and earth. You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for your service. Help us, who have shared Christ's body and received his cup, to be faithful disciples, so that our daily living may reflect your presence among us, and our love be your love, reaching out into the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn #346 *For the Healing of the Nations*

SENDING IN GOD'S LOVE

Charge & Benediction

Benediction Response Phoebe Bawmann & Jeremy Kurn

Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after church for coffee and treats, hosted today by Pat McCune.

Good Shepherd Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Sheri Fry
revmo25@gmail.com
Office Admin: Teddie McConnell
GSPCoffice10785@gmail.com

Choir Director: Sara Love
Accompanist: Jeremy Kurn
Audio/Visual Tech: Astin Lopez
Liturgist: Marsha Morton
www.thegoodshepherd.org

Song *Imagine* Jeremy Kurn/ Phoebe Bawmann

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination (unison) Robin Kelly
God, I turn into ashes all my preconceptions about his scripture, all my safe, familiar interpretations. Burn me with its newness. Let it rise like the phoenix with bright wide-winged words. Amen.

First Lesson for the Day Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16 Marsha Morton

Anthem Phoebe Bawmann

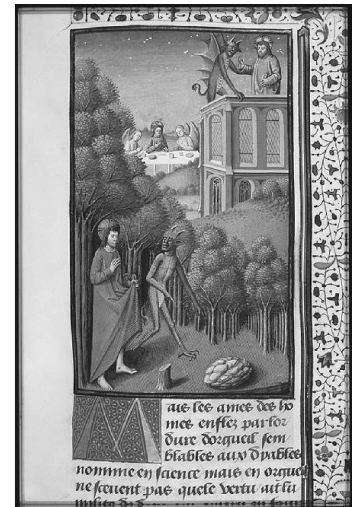
Second Lesson for the Day Luke 4:1-13 Rev. Sheri Fry

Sermon *A Man. A Wilderness. A Few Wild Beasts*

Moment of Silence

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in an inviting God who invites the poor and the sick, the outcast and the lonely, the immigrant and the refugee, the awkward and the abrasive, the young and the innocent. We believe God invites the best and the worst – in all of us. We believe God invites us to: a life of faith, a crowded table, a messy church, a deeper truth, a resilient joy, a place to belong, a family of strangers, a world that is just, and a love that knows no bounds. We believe this invitation exists for all people. We believe this invitation exists for us. And when we miss the call or ignore the invite, we believe that God invites us again. Thanks be to God for that inviting Spirit. Amen.



*Hymn #510

We Gather Here in Jesus' Name

Offering Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory

*Doxology #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, a continual thank offering to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Gracious God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You have been faithful to us through all generations and continue to speak to us today. We praise You for this table of love You spread in the world as a sign of Your love for all people. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name.

All hymn texts, song lyrics, and tunes reprinted with permission using OneLicense #A-724275 and CCLI #11455786.

Eucharistic Prayer

One: O God, who gave to your servants the gifts of courage, faith and cheerfulness, and sent people out from Northglenn and other parts of Colorado to carry the word of Your gospel to every creature. Grant, we pray, a like spirit to your church, even at this present time.

All: Loving God, hear us.

One: Further in all things the purpose of this our community, that hidden things may be revealed to us, and new ways found to touch the lives of all.

All: Loving God, hear us.

One: May we preserve with each other sincere charity and peace, and grant that this place of your abiding continues to be a sanctuary and light to those around us.

All: Loving God, hear us.

One: Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

All: Loving God, hear us.

One: Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. We particularly ask you to remember and be with....

Open prayer – aloud or silent...

and after each prayer please say...God in your mercy, hear our prayers

One: Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our lives, our world, our universe.

All: Loving God hear us. In work and worship, gathered and scattered, now and always, God is with us.

One: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heave. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Opportunities This Week

Monday, 3/7 - Men's Shed 10 am - noon

Tuesday, 3/8 - ESL Class 6 - 7:30 pm

Wednesday, 3/9 - Mission Committee 10 am
Bread, Broth & Books Lenten Study 5:30 - 6:45
Choir Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:15 pm

Thursday, 3/10 - Food Bank Board Meeting 1:00
ESL Class 6 - 7:30 pm

Opportunities Later This Month

Monday, 3/14 - Men's Shed 10 am - noon

Tuesday, 3/15 - Session Meeting 4:00 pm
ESL Class 6 - 7:30 pm

Wednesday, 3/16 - Choir Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:15 pm

Thursday, 3/17 - Sometimes Circle 1:00 pm
ESL Class 6 - 7:30 pm

Your Church at Work

**FOOD
BANK**

Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 am - 11:45 am

Third Saturday of the month 9 am - 12 pm.

Need donations of toilet paper and bar soap.



Joys and Concerns

Please pray for those dealing with health issues: for Jane; Haylee; Jason; Tammy V.; and Maxine; for all those grieving the loss of loved ones: for Gil Seibel's family; Jean Cook's family; Burton Kugler's family; and the Coleman family; and for communities affected by COVID-19 or by human rights violations here in the United States and throughout the world; and for our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area.

Marion Hubner is now living at The Bridge at Garden Plaza, 14211 E. Evans Ave. #352, Aurora, CO 80014. Phone 303-873-2167. Her knee has healed. Visitors are welcome.

Opportunities This Week

Monday, 3/7 - Men's Shed 10 am - noon

Tuesday, 3/8 - ESL Class 6 - 7:30 pm

Wednesday, 3/9 - Mission Committee 10 am
Bread, Broth & Books Lenten Study 5:30 - 6:45
Choir Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:15 pm

Thursday, 3/10 - Food Bank Board Meeting 1:00
ESL Class 6 - 7:30 pm

Opportunities Later This Month

Monday, 3/14 - Men's Shed 10 am - noon

Tuesday, 3/15 - Session Meeting 4:00 pm
ESL Class 6 - 7:30 pm

Wednesday, 3/16 - Choir Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:15 pm

Thursday, 3/17 - Sometimes Circle 1:00 pm
ESL Class 6 - 7:30 pm

Your Church at Work

**FOOD
BANK**

Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 am - 11:45 am

Third Saturday of the month 9 am - 12 pm.

Need donations of toilet paper and bar soap.



Joys and Concerns

Please pray for those dealing with health issues: for Jane; Haylee; Jason; Tammy V.; and Maxine; for all those grieving the loss of loved ones: for Gil Seibel's family; Jean Cook's family; Burton Kugler's family; and the Coleman family; and for communities affected by COVID-19 or by human rights violations here in the United States and throughout the world; and for our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area.

Marion Hubner is now living at The Bridge at Garden Plaza, 14211 E. Evans Ave. #352, Aurora, CO 80014. Phone 303-873-2167. Her knee has healed. Visitors are welcome.