



Renewed in Ministry:  
Mercy on the Wilderness Road  
February 22, 2026

Scan to check out our website.



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PRELUDE / COUNTDOWN

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kerry Foote

WELCOMING OF GUESTS

PASSING THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

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

**Congregation: We follow, trusting in God's mercy.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*This is My Father's World (v. 1-3)*

UMH #144

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**A Lenten Affirmation**

Liturgist

**I believe in God the Creator, who made me and all things, who set me on my path in this world.**

**I believe in God the Savior, who is one with the Creator, who rescued me and all creation from the depredations of our violations against God and creation. This man, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, walked a path through this world, taking on human form having been born of a woman through the power of the Holy Spirit. He lived and worked in this world among people just like me. He walked God's path to death on a cross, and rose from the dead to open our pathway to eternal life.**

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit, my counselor and guide, who is one with the Creator and the Christ, who through the body and blood of Jesus brings me into communion with all people, past, present and future; who calls me to walk a sacred way of life through this world, caring for creation and the people I meet on the way, loving them, helping them, welcoming them without prejudice, being God's hands and feet in the world. Amen**

\*GLORIA PATRI

UMH #70

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 (NKJV)

Liturgist

2:15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

*Liturgist: This is the word of God for the people of God.*

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 John 2:5-6 (NKJV)

Liturgist

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things 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, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

*Liturgist: This is the word of God for the people of God.*

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

**God, thank you for being with us in every place, even the wilderness. Help us slow down, notice you, and trust your mercy as we walk with Jesus. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING Matthew 4:1-11 NKJV(see insert)

Liturgist

MISSION MOMENT

PRESENTATION OF PRAYERS AND PRAISE

Pastor

*Prayer cards are on the information table. If you have a prayer request that you would like to share with the congregation, please fill out a card and pass it toward the center aisle as we are singing the Hymn of Preparation. The pastor will collect them during the hymn and pray over cards at the chancel rail.*

HYMN OF PREPARATION

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (v. 1-4)

UMH # 298

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor

SERMON

Pastor

Title: Renewed in Ministry

Theme: Mercy on the Wilderness Road

Main Idea: The First Sunday in Lent invites us to consider how to set the space for the journey ahead.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND SACRIFICES (Celebrating our Gifts)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Surprising God of Mercy, you meet us in wilderness places and walk beside us through trial and temptation. Even when we feel alone, your grace is never far, your presence never absent. 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**

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings* UMH #95

\*HYMN OF CELEBRATION *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale* (v. 1-6) UMH #122

\*COMMISSION / BENEDICTION Pastor

Go, now, in the comfort and blessing of God's mercy, trusting that wherever you go, God's steadfast love surrounds you, sustains you, and supports you for the journey ahead...and all of God's children said...**Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Love and Fellowship* See screen

POSTLUDE

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God  
by  
Bob and Donna Corson.*