

Articles for the March edition of *The Tide* are due. Please email your information to [office@aptosumc.org](mailto:office@aptosumc.org).

Worship Assistant sign ups (ushers, liturgist, coffee volunteers) for March are available in the Fellowship Hall.

**Thanks Today to:**

Our **Liturgist:** Cailan Darling

Our **Usher:** Peggy Kaysen

Our **Tech Team:** Carolyn Collins, Roger Swenson

Our **Coffee Volunteers:** Debbie and Marty Mason

*No Altar Flowers during Lent*

**This Week:**

Monday, 2/23: PACT 10 AM

Tuesday, 2/24: Alive Now 10 AM, Upper Room Group 7 PM

Thursday, 2/26: Senior Stretch 9:30 AM

Friday, 2/27: Scott Group 10 AM

**Coming Up:**

Wednesday, 3/4: Village Santa Cruz 1 PM

Sunday, 3/8: **Daylight Saving Time starts**

**Aptos UMC sends out a weekly email blast on Saturdays.** If you would like to be added to the email list, contact the office at [office@aptosumc.org](mailto:office@aptosumc.org). *If you've given us your email address and aren't receiving the emails, please check your junk or spam folder.*

**Online giving is available.** Go to [aptosumc.org](http://aptosumc.org) and click on the 'GIVE NOW' button, or scan this code using your smartphone.



**You are invited to join our Prayer Team.** The Prayer Team receives a weekly email with prayer requests. To join the Prayer Team or submit a prayer request, contact the church office.

# APTOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 22, 2026 ~ 10 AM Worship

First Sunday in Lent

*Aptos UMC is an inclusive community that welcomes and encourages full participation of ALL PERSONS, regardless of race, culture, age, economic circumstance, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical/mental abilities. We affirm our denomination's motto, "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"*



## Mercy on the Wilderness Road

**Gabe House, Pastor**  
**Daniel Goldsmith, Music Director**

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## *Order of Worship*

### *Gathering Music*

#### *Call To Worship*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *Prelude*

#### *Opening Prayer*

**O God our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.**

### *Announcements*

*Opening Hymn #2112*    **“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”**

### *Children's Time*

### *Prayer for Illumination*

**Lord, open our hearts and minds, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read, and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

*Scripture*                      Matthew 4:1-11

*Sermon*                      “Mercy on the Wilderness Road”      Pastor Gabe

*Hymn #2105*                      **“Jesus, Tempted in the Desert”**

### *Prayers of the People*

#### *Confession and Pardon*

**Merciful God, save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation. So strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season that we put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### *Passing of the Peace*

#### *Offering*

*Doxology #64 (v1)*            **“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”**

### *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

#### *The Lord's Prayer*

*Hymn #269*                      **“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”**

### *Benediction*

### *Postlude*

## Matthew 4:1-11 NRSVue

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the  
mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> 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.' "

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him,

"All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.' "

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.