

Readings for February 26, 2023
United Church of Strafford In Person and Zoom Service

Responsive Reading *from Psalm 91*

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

People: **Will say to God, “My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.”**

Leader: Because you have made God your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place,
no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

People: **For God will command the angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.**

Leader: On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

People: **Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.**

Leader: When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.

People: **With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

Matthew 4:1-11

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, ‘God will command the 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 your sovereign 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 your sovereign God, and serve only God.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.