

Readings for February 18, 2024
United Church of Strafford, Vermont

Responsive Reading *from Psalms 25 & 91*

Leader: To you, O God, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust.

**People: Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.**

Leader: Be mindful of your mercy, O God,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

**People: Do not remember the sins of my youth
or my transgressions.**

Leader: You lead the humble in what is right,
and teach the humble your way.

**People: Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.**

Leader: Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.

**People: All you who wander in a wilderness,
trust that God will send angels
to help 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: God says, "Those who love me, I will deliver;
When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
and show them my salvation."
In you, O God, I trust.**

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."