



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

22 February 2026 Rev Geoff Flynn Rev Sam Sadrata Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

## Matthew 4:1-11 (NLT)

### Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

**4** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

**2** After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

**3** The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

**4** Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

**5** Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

**6** "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you,

and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

**7** Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

**8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

**9** "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

**10** Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

**11** Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

## Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (NLT)

**15** The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

**16** And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; **17** but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

### The Fall

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

**2** The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, **3** but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

**4** "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.

**5** "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**6** When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

**7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

## PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal:

**"To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."**

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Minister: Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202

Rev Sam Sadrata 0431 216 188

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

Elder: Margaret Crowell

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH



The light heart lives long. ~ Irish Proverb

## Other Lectionary Readings:

Psalms 32 Romans 5:12-19



## CHURCH SERVICES 11am West Tamworth

**1 March** ~ Rev Geoff

**Holy Communion** followed by lunch

**8 March** ~ Meg Mangan



..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Daryl Lush, who is recovering from an accident with his trotter and sulky.
- We pray for Vera who undergoes knee surgery 19th February.
- We continue to pray for Marg and Pat as they recover from surgery.
- We pray for Beulah, and give thanks for her.
- We pray that, during this period of Lent, kindness can predominate in our war-weary world.

### The Turtle Theory

The turtle never hurries.  
 It moves with quiet certainty —  
 one step, one breath, one moment at a  
 time.  
 That's the Turtle Theory.  
 You don't need speed to make progress.  
 You need direction, patience, and  
 consistency.  
 Because rushing leads to burnout.  
 But steady effort builds strength.  
 Every small movement counts —  
 even when it feels too slow to matter.  
 Keep moving.  
 Not fast.  
 Just forward.

~ unknown

**When you're young and  
 you drop something, you  
 just pick it up.**

**When you're older and you  
 drop something, you stare  
 at it for a while, wondering  
 if you actually need it  
 anymore.**

One of the saddest lessons of history is  
 this: If we've been bamboozled long enough,  
 we tend to reject any evidence of the  
 bamboozle.

~ Carl Sagan



### Meg's Musings

I haven't watched much of the Winter Olympics.  
 Almost every time I tuned in, there were downhill  
 races on - rather than the figure-skating.  
 The downhill racing seems to be about speed, and  
 reading the conditions on the slopes.  
 Figure-skating is about grace, although some speed  
 is certainly required.  
 But it is one person, or a couple, creating something  
 which, at its' best, leaves a lasting impression.  
 The skaters, their costumes, the music and the  
 movement flow into one.  
 Torvill and Dean created magic when they skated to  
 "The Bolero".  
 We, as Christians, have the opportunity to act with  
 grace, each and every day.  
 When our words and our actions flow from God, they,  
 too, can create a lasting impression - and give glory  
 to God.

*Blessing from Meg*



### Lent/Easter Journey



- 24 February – Lenten Study 7pm Zoom – five weeks CHANGED
- 26 February – Lenten Study 2pm St Andrew's Room – five weeks
- 29 March – Palm Sunday Combined 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 9:30am at Tamworth City
- 2 April – Maundy Thursday 7pm Southside
- 3 April – Good Friday 9am Tamworth City
- 5 April – Easter Sunday Combined 9:30am Southside



**Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville**  
**9:30 to 1:00pm Thursday, Friday &  
 Saturday.**  
 Cuppa and a chat always available.

**4th Sunday Monthly Hallsville Markets**  
 Big breakfast served 8:00 - 10:00 am  
 Next Markets 22 March



**Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches Newsletter**  
**Lent 1 - Trust in the Wilderness**

If you've ever stood on the edge of a paddock in drought, you'll know the feeling. The ground is cracked, the dam is low, and everything looks tired. And yet, beneath the surface, roots are reaching down, searching for what will keep them alive. Lent begins in a place like that ... dry, exposed, honest.

On Ash Wednesday we heard the sharp words of Isaiah 58. God is not interested in religion that looks impressive but leaves people hungry or burdened. And in Matthew 6, Jesus tells us not to perform our faith for others, but to trust our Father who sees in secret. Now, in this first week of Lent, we are taken back to a garden and then into a wilderness.

In Genesis, God places the first humans in a garden that is generous beyond measure. Before there is any restriction, there is gift. "You may freely eat..." God says. That is the starting point. God's character is abundance and provision.

But the serpent plants a seed of doubt: "Did God say...?" Maybe God is not as generous as you thought. Maybe God is holding something back. I wonder if the real temptation is not just the fruit but rather the suspicion that God can't quite be trusted.

That same whisper turns up again in the wilderness when Jesus is tempted. "If you are the Son of God..." Prove it. Take control. Secure your own future. Turn stones into bread. Make a spectacle. Grab power while you can.

Where Adam and Eve grasp, Jesus refuses. Hungry and worn down, he chooses trust. He does not manipulate God's promises for his own security. He stands on them. He trusts the Father's word. In him, we see clearly who God is — not distant, not manipulative, but faithful and self-giving. Jesus reveals a God who does not coerce, but who sustains; not one who withholds life, but who gives himself for it.

That matters for us here in Tamworth. We know something about testing seasons. Some of us carry decades of faith... years of prayer, grief, endurance, and quiet service. We have seen dry years before, and we know faith does not always feel dramatic. Some of us are raising kids in a world that feels fast and demanding, trying to hold together work, school, sport, and a fragile sense of balance...

Lent meets all of us there. The wilderness in Scripture is not punishment. ....continued

.It is a place where truth is uncovered. Israel learned to rely on manna. Jesus trialled and triumphed; and through him, we are drawn into that same grace.

Isaiah reminds us that the fast God chooses loosens injustice and feeds the hungry. Jesus tells us to store up treasure in heaven, not in appearances. As a covenant community within the Uniting Church, we're called to live that out together. The Spirit keeps shaping us into a people who reflect Christ's generosity in practical ways: quiet acts of mercy, patient forgiveness, steady commitment to justice.

When the paddocks are dry, shallow roots won't do. Lent invites us to ask: what are my roots reaching toward? Security? Approval? Control? Or the steady faithfulness of Christ? The whisper of our culture sounds familiar: You don't have enough. You are not enough. You need more. But the gospel says something different. In Jesus, though tempted, faithful, self-giving; we see the true heart of God. Through him, we hear again: You are beloved.

Perhaps this week the invitation is simple. No grand gestures. Just one quiet act of trust. A prayer said without fanfare. A kindness offered without recognition. A choice to believe that God is generous, even when life feels thin.

Friends, Lent is not about proving ourselves. It's about returning to the God who has already claimed us in Christ. Even in dry places, God is faithful. Even in testing, God is present. Even in weakness, God's grace holds.

So as we begin this journey together, may our roots go down deep into that grace; the grace we see most clearly in Jesus.

Amen  
Rev Samuela Sdrata



**Il Dolce far niente**

(Dole-chay far nee-EN-tau

Noun (Italian)

The sweetness of doing nothing.

Not laziness, but leisure.

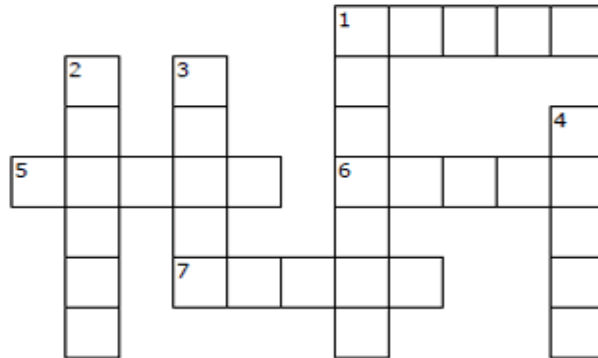


A soulful idleness where being is enough, and productivity takes a polite backseat to joy.

# The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)



## ACROSS

1. The entire Earth and all the places and things on it
5. A heavenly being, often shown as a human figure with a halo and wings
6. A small rock
7. The evil ruler of Hell, and enemy of God

## DOWN

1. To show a strong feeling of love and respect for God
2. To feel a need or desire for food
3. A food made of flour and water, shaped into loaves, and baked
4. To try to get someone to do wrong

|        |       |         |       |
|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| hungry | bread | worship | devil |
| stone  | tempt | angel   | world |

R P J L D S T E M P T E D B K  
 P Q G R H P W E G H J S V W J  
 V Y O N N H V X W D E A W F E  
 M L Y R N R F E E N S T S D W  
 V O A G E X B O W X U A D B O  
 S B U S K S B O E D S N Y T R  
 O P D N I I B I U E O C M A S  
 F I L S T S N C W V V L O Z H  
 I A M E L A Z G K I D B M L I  
 B Q S E N A I D D L I W U R P  
 L R G T D D R N E O L P W F N  
 H N E L I O O E S N M E D S X  
 A C R A W N B R E V G S L F C  
 J O F U D Y G E R T E M P L E  
 W H H U N G R Y T S T O N E S

~ Sermons 4 Kids

|         |          |        |          |          |
|---------|----------|--------|----------|----------|
| WORD    | WORSHIP  | LORD   | MOUNTAIN | BOW      |
| TEMPTED | ANGELS   | HUNGRY | STONES   | SERVE    |
| WORLD   | KINGDOMS | BREAD  | DESERT   | SPLENDOR |
| DEVIL   | FASTING  | SATAN  | TEMPLE   | JESUS    |

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus