



ASH WEDNESDAY
February 17, 2021

St. James United Church of Christ
St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz
Pastor

Randy Sohn
Organist

Prelude Music
Gathering in Readiness for Worship

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Call to Worship (responsively):

L: For just such a time as this, we were made. In the image of God: loving, grace-giving, and wise, we are created to be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ.

P: We gather on this Ash Wednesday to begin our journey to the resurrection together.

L: Release us from the pursuits of worldly things. Open our hearts and eyes that we may see you in the weak and powerless. Open our hearts and our ears that we may hear your words above all others.

P: In the name of our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

Opening Prayer:

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made. From the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling. *Amen.*

Song of Prayer:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Prayer of Confession:

Have mercy on us, O Lord, according to your steadfast love, blot out that which has kept us from you ~ the sins of things we have done, and the sins of things we have left undone. Wash us for our sin is ever before you. Any sin against sister or brother is, in fact, a sin against you and, for that, we beg your forgiveness.

Through your power alone can we be made clean. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. We crave your forgiveness and have no hope in this life - or the next - without it. Forgive us, Lord, and our lips will declare your praise! This we pray in your holy and merciful name. *Amen.*

Words of Assurance (together):

Together, we have confessed the broken things within us, and God's mercy has restored our souls. I proclaim to you this day; our sins have been forgiven. *Amen*

Song of Assurance:

Savior, When in Dust to Thee

Scripture Reading:

Message:

Mark 9:14-29

Prayers, Healing and Hope

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Praising God in Music:

Give Me a Clean Heart

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (together):

Almighty and Glorious God, thank you for your gift of abundant, eternal life.

Since the creation of humanity, you have given us good gifts. As we bring our offerings to you, we give back to you from your abundant blessings. May our

gifts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our God. Amen.

A Time of Silent Reflection and Prayer:

God of light, we have heard your message, proclaimed of old, that in you there is no dark cloud at all; nothing exists that can hide the light of your presence. Guide us, keep us from despair when all we see is darkness around us. Lift our eyes to you – even as we have lifted our prayers to you tonight. Comfort us with your presence and give assurance to all who are hurting. Comfort with your presence those who are living in the shadow of grief; give assurance to all who are missing loved ones that the living and the dead are in your care, certain of being joined again in the unbroken circle that will sing your praise forever. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Holy Communion

A Sending Forth Song

For the Healing of the Nations

Benediction

God may we remember that all of life is held together with nails, piercing the flesh of Jesus Christ; And may we remember that the power of sin and death are forever ended, hung upon a cross and crucified; May we remember the bread of life broken for us, and Christ's blood poured out for us. May we remember and give thanks; as we take up our cross and follow him, believing that in Christ all things work together for the good. Go in peace, to love and serve our Lord.

Postlude

For the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion:

You will be called to the front where you will receive your sign of the cross in ash. The pastor will use a que-tip to administer the cross on the back of your hand. After you have received your blessing, proceed to the Communion Table, and pick up your communion elements. Take these back to your seat.

Pastor will then lead the Communion liturgy and when asked you will take the wafer as the Body of Christ. Then the juice as the Blood of Christ.

Mark 9:14-29 NRSV

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. He asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" Someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so." He answered them, "You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!" After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "This kind can come out only through prayer."