



**TRUST** like Ruth  
**PROTECT** like Rahab  
**LEAD** like Deborah  
**FIGHT** like Esther  
**PRAY** like Hannah  
**REJOICE** like Mary

**Sunday, February 22, 2023**  
**St. James United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
Randy Sohn, Organist      Cindy Sohn, Choir Director  
2023 Confirmands Assisting with the Service

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

*All the Way My Savior*

**Hymn of Praise: (#141)**

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

**Prayer:**

**We gather to confess our sins and bring a sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart to God, who forgives us and frees us for joyful obedience. Today, we join one another and Christ on the road to the cross and commit ourselves to the Lenten journey ahead of us. May we be faithful in keeping a Lenten fast of justice, charity, and flourishing before God, self, and neighbor. *Amen.***

**Reflective Reading**

Reid Vandoske

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. He forgives all our sins and heals our infirmities; He redeems our life from the grave and crowns us with mercy and loving-kindness; He satisfies us with good things, and our youth is renewed like an eagle's. Almighty, everlasting God, create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our transgressions, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Hymn of Prayer: (#221)**

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

**Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried:**

**He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit: The One Holy Universal Christian Church: the communion of saints: The forgiveness of sins: The resurrection of the body: And the life everlasting. *Amen.***

**Old Testament Reading:**

Isaiah 58:6-7 NRSV

*Is not this the fast that I choose: to lose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?*

## St. James Choral Anthem:

*God's Peace*

### **New Testament Reading:**

Mark 8:34-38 ESV

*And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*

### **Message:**

*Ashes to Ashes*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

### **Offering:**

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website ([stmstjucc.org](http://stmstjucc.org)).

### **Offertory Music:**

*Lenten Meditation*

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

### **Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

**Lord, bless these our gifts so graciously given. May they further spread the good news, and be used to build a kingdom of peace, wellness, and justice within our church, our community, our nation, and our world. Amen.**

### **Imposition of Ashes Reading and Blessing:**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us come before our Creator and Redeemer.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

**Imposition of Ashes:**                      Assisting is Sierra Bramstedt and Colten Sommer

**Holy Communion:**

Risen Lord and Savior, present among us with the wealth of your love. Cleanse us from sin and give us the faith to offer our praise and grow in your grace.

**Amen.**

Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took the bread and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me. After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love. Do this to remember me.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

**Amen.**

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory.

**Amen.**

For honor and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.***

**Benediction:**

God, may we remember, that all of life is held together with nails, piercing the flesh of Jesus Christ; And may we remember 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 now to love and serve our Lord in all that you do, all that you are and all that you will be. *Amen.*

**Postlude:**

*A Song of Lent*



Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:  
St. Mark's & St. James UCC