



WEDNESDAY, March 10, 2021
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz
Pastor

Ann Rodewald
Organist

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude for Gathering for Worship

In the Garden

Call to Worship (responsively):

L: Long ago God called a wandering people into a special relationship.

P: God challenged them to be witnesses and bearers of the Good News.

~ Good News!

L: In the goodness of God's time, Jesus was called to show us more about our deep and abiding relationship to God.

P: He taught us that God loves each one of us.

~ Loves Us!

L: The Holy Spirit was sent to comfort and guide us in our witness, mission, and ministry.

P: May we be faithful in our relationship with God and proclaim God's love to everyone.

~ Faithful in God's Love!

Opening Prayer:

Lord, we are brought to this place fully aware that all our riches, our "toys", our possessions, will not offer us the peace we so desperately seek. We chase after things and yet find it difficult to follow the path to the cross. Help us to be ready to hear your word for us, to experience your healing love, and to witness to your Good News. We ask in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Statement of Faith:

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

Song of Prayer:

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Prayer of Confession:

Patient Lord, we have cluttered our lives with so much stuff and so many activities that they block out your healing words of hope and mercy. In our most stressful days we spend our energy and time worrying about these things. Forgive us when we have not been in-tune with you, or when we have not listened to your Word and followed your Way. Clear away our frustrations and fears; give us clean hearts and spirits. Help us to be confident in your mercy and transformational love.

Words of Assurance (together):

Rejoice! We are forgiven. Let the clutter of our stuff and our activities fall away and be replaced by the love of God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Song of Assurance:

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Scripture Reading:

John 12:1-8

Message:

[God On The Move] God Moves Us to Empty Ourselves
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Praising God in Music:

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

A Time of Silent Reflection and Prayer:

Pastoral Prayer ... 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,
for ever. Amen.*

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).

Offertory Music:

God So Loved the World

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (all together)

L: Creating God, guide us to put first things first in our lives.

P: As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

L: Christ our Lord, enable us to follow your example.

P: As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

L: Spirit Alive, shine your light that our choices may be a reflection.

P: As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

L: Let these offerings, gifts and tithes further your mission for your kingdom.

P: As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. Amen.

A Sending Forth Song

O Word of God Incarnate

Benediction

Go forth with the Lord at your side, seeking goodness and compassion. Bring the words of hope and peace to all whom you meet. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. *Amen.*

Postlude

Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

John 12: 1-8 NRSV

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped the with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii^[b] and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

