



WEDNESDAY. March 17, 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

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

Call to Worship (responsively):

L: God's mercy floods over us.

P: Lord, wash me clean of the pain in my life.

L: God's love pours into us.

P: Lord, pour your love into every pore of my being.

L: Let the love and mercy of God reign in your heart today.

P: Be with me, Lord, and guide my life. AMEN.

Opening Prayer:

Lord, be with us this evening as we commit ourselves to being your disciples. Help us to face the future unafraid, trusting in your loving care and presence with us. In the beauty of this moment bring each of us into this moment. May we cherish it as we cherish you, Lor. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Prayer:

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Prayer of Confession:

Compassionate Lord forgive us when we falter on our Lenten journey; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. Jesus requires us to be willing to make the ultimate commitment of our whole lives and we hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy.

Words of Assurance (together):

Even though the future is clouded; God is with us, guiding, healing, comforting, restoring. Rejoice! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and healed. Amen.

Song of Assurance:

Be Still My Soul

Scripture Reading:

Luke 23:26-38

Message:

[God On The Move] God Moves....to the Cross
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Praising God in Music:

How Firm a Foundation

A Time of Silent Reflection and Prayer:

The days are getting longer, Lord. The sun's rays are higher in the sky bringing more light to our world. Warmth begins to flood over our nation. Let the warmth of your mercy and love pour over us. As we have gathered this day to celebrate the good news that you have given to the world, remind us that it is our purpose to offer that good news to others, not only in words but in deeds of love and mercy, peace and justice. As we have offered names of people and situations which have been heavy on our hearts for your healing mercies, remind us also that we stand in need of that selfsame healing love. Be with us this evening and the days to come. Give us hearts of great joy and courage to serve you all our days.

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.

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:

Lenten Prayer

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (all together)

Throughout our lives we have depended on the generosity of others: parents, friends, teachers, church leaders, strangers. In many expected and unexpected ways God has provided for us, and we have been blessed. Now, we can show our gratitude by sharing our abundance. May our gifts and all our efforts make known the riches of your glory. Amen.

A Sending Forth Song

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

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

Gentle Spirit

Luke 23:26-38 NRSV

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

