



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

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

**St. James United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Readers: Sierra Bramstedt, Colten Sommer, Reid Vandoske

Randall Sohn, Organist      Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

*Savior, Your Dying Love*

### **Call To Worship:**

L: God whispers to each of us: you are my beloved, created in love for love.

**P: My spirit answers, here I am, Lord. Speak to me anew.**

L: Then let us gather, old and young, small and great, to dream God's dreams, receive God's power, and do God's deeds.

**P: Here we are, Lord. Shine the light of your love on us. Kindle your Spirit within us. Work your redeeming will in us, that the world may be one through the power of your love.**

### **Prayer:**

**Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who has rescued us from those who would destroy us. Your power and might are great, and your mercy is poured out on us whom you love. Our help is in your blessed Name, O you who have made heaven and earth. By the gift of your Spirit, may this time of worship be a time of blessing for we who laud your name. Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise: #24**

*All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

### **Prayers of the People:**

*Sierra Bramstedt:*

*The LORD is good to all;*

*he has compassion on all he has made. (Psalm 145:2)*

God of the blessed we praise you, for mercy shown, grace given, living water, Spirit's power. We ask you for daily strength, hope for tomorrow, your word to guide, strong feet to follow.

God of compassion

**Hear our prayer.**

God of the oppressed we bring to you the broken ones, forgotten ones, exploited and abused ones. Bring freedom and release, love and compassion to damaged hearts and souls.

God of compassion

**Hear our prayer.**

*Colten Sommer:*

God of the distressed, we bring to you the grieving ones, hurting ones, suffering and wounded ones. Bring wholeness and healing comfort and relief, to broken bodies and minds.

God of compassion

**Hear our prayer.**

God of the dispossessed we bring to you the lonely ones, the homeless ones, thirsty, tired and penniless ones. Bring hope and sustenance physical and spiritual food, to hungry bodies and souls.

The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. May the peace, love and compassion of the Lord be with you now and always.

God of compassion

**Hear our prayer.**

**St. James Choral Anthem:**

*I Can Hear the Savior Calling*

**Scripture Reading:**

*Esther 4:12-17*

Reid Vandoske

**Message:**

*Fight Like Esther*

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:**

*Forty Days and Forty Nights*

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

**Hymn of Prayer: #258**

*We Give Thee But Thine Own*

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

God of the beginning, God of now, and God of what will be; as we offer gifts to you this evening, we pray that you will dedicate them so that they might bring love, compassion, joy, and mercy to people who are in need. Then remind us that we are not done until we have offered to you the prayers of our hearts. In the name of Jesus, our rock and our redeemer. *Amen.*

### Prayer of the People and the 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 and ever. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending: #265

*We Thank Thee, Lord*

### Benediction:

Let us go out into the world, understanding that we are not of it, knowing that we are your children and baptized in your Holy Spirit. Let us walk in unity, showing the world that did not know our savior, that we are indeed one. We cannot be divided. We cannot be conquered. We will stand together. *Amen.*

### Postlude:

*Lenten Prayer*

Esther 4:12-17 ESV

*And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.*

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

Like us on Facebook 

Check out our Website: [www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org)

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)