

## Wednesday Lenten Service ~ March 16, 2022

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Kathy Jurk, Organist & Choir Director

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring Prelude  
Gathering for Worship

*Behold the Man*

### Call to Worship (responsively):

L: My name is Successful, and I like it. I don't especially like how I became a success, but nonetheless, my name is Successful. Doesn't God like success? Doesn't God want us to be successful?

I missed my child's soccer game because a project at work was due; My name is Successful.

The family waited dinner for me, but I never showed. Somebody needed my advice; My name is Successful.

No time to visit the doctor or drive the speed limit. Lunchtime is fast food, if at all; My name is Successful.

**P: But what does it profit a person to gain the whole world and lose his or her own soul? What will we give in exchange for our souls?**

L: Successful until I got the pink slip. Successful until my license was suspended.

Successful until a mighty fist gripped my heart as if to rip it from my body. Successful until divorce papers came. Successful until my child was arrested.

**P: And then ... and then ... and then one day,  
God changed my name: changed my name to Faithful.**

L: Now my name is Faithful, and I like me this way ... so does my family. I'm successful now because God changed my name. I realize if my actions are not for God, they are not for me. God likes for me to be faithful. God expects me to be faithful.

**P: God teach us how to be faithful this Lenten Season. Teach us how to allow you to change our names.**

Hymn of Praise: (#10 Binder)

*Great Is Your Faithfulness*

### A Prayer of Submission:

O Lord, we give you thanks for the example of Abraham and all the saints who have gone before us - for those who waited patiently for your promises to come to pass; for those who lived in hope while around them it seemed to be only darkness; for those who witnessed to you when it was not considered the proper thing to do; for those who forgot their own selves in their desire to obey your commands and respond to your call upon their lives. Help us today, O God, to examine our own faith - to look beyond our resistance to talk about the cross and about sacrifice; and to consider in prayer our reluctance to give up the things of this world - to risk our reputations, our comfort, and our security for the sake of following you. Lord, in your mercy.

**P: Hear our prayer.**

### Words of Assurance (together):

We pray O Lord, that you would make us bold in our faith. We will no longer place ourselves at the forefront; we will no longer be afraid to talk about you and to share your love with others; we will not be neglectful of your command to live according to your will. We are, O Lord, your faithful renewed through your Spirit and in the name of the Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Song of Assurance: (#4 Binder)

*Be Thou My Vision*

### Scripture Reading:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Message:

*Walk Before Me*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

St. Mark's Choir:

*The Beautiful Garden of Prayer*

### 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:

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

### Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (together):

**"Faith was reckoned as righteousness... to us who believe in the One who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death because of our sins and was raised for the sake of our righteousness."**

**Hear and believe these words about God's amazing grace, grace experienced through Jesus' sacrificial love, as forgiveness of sins. *Amen***

### Silent 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, forever. *Amen.***

A Sending Forth Song: (#318 Hymnal)

*Nearer My God to Thee*

### Benediction:

Go, in God's power that moves through acts of faith. Open your ear to God's divine revelations. Depend on God, who is wise beyond the laws of this land. Do all of these things, so that all that is right and good fills each day until we meet again. Go now to love and serve our Lord.

### Postlude

**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

*When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty, walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.*

*And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."*