

Wednesday Lenten Service ~ March 24, 2022

St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz
Pastor

Randy Sohn
Organist

Cindy Sohn
Pianist

Meditative Music

Bells Ring Prelude

Gathering for Worship:

Am I a Soldier of the Cross?

Call to Worship (responsively):

L: In the days of Noah, God placed a rainbow in the sky as the sign of a covenant of God's love for all the earth.

P: In the colors of the rainbow, we see the sign of God's grace for all creation.

L: In the days of Moses, the words of God were written on tablets of stone, as the sign of a covenant between God and all of God's people.

P: In the tablets of stone, we see the sign of God's hope for each to live in peace with God and neighbor.

L: In the days of the prophet, God promised to place a new covenant in our hearts.

P: As members of the living Body of Christ, we see the sign of God's promise among us.

Hymn of Praise: (#555 Pilgrim People) (insert)

Sanctuary

A Prayer of Submission:

God, prepare us to be tried and true, pure and holy sanctuaries. And, with thanksgiving, Holy One, we'll live as Spirit-filled, healed and transformed sanctuaries just for you. As we gather before you, Wonderful and Magnificent God, reveal yourself to us as you did to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Speak to us in ways that illumine our darkness and enliven our steps. Come alive in us, call us by name and give us the commandments of new life that will order our steps in this time of worship and as we leave this place. Move our hearts closer to yours and center our thoughts on worshiping you and you alone. Wherever you find us, whether on bended knee, seated, or standing, transform us into your image of perfect love; create within us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us!

Words of Assurance (together):

God knows our hearts and our spirits. God sees our struggles and forgives our weakness. Know that it is in God's healing love that you live and move and have your being. Rejoice, for God is with you always. Amen.

Piano and Organ Duet:

It Is Well With My Soul

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 20:1-17

Message:

All These Words

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Song of Assurance: (#221 Hymnal)

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

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

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (together):

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us. In the upside-down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but by what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, to bless your church, your people, your creation. 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: (#329 Hymnal)

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

Benediction:

Go now to will and to work for God's purposes. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. Be filled with the same love and look to the interests of others. With reverence for God, work out your salvation. And may God quench your thirst with love and consolation; May Christ Jesus strengthen you and encourage you; And may the Holy Spirit lead you on and make your joy complete. Go now to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, all that you are, and all you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

My Song Is Love Unknown

Exodus 20: 1-17

And God spoke all these words, saying,

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

“You shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”