



# Unbroken

*A living faith*

## Ash Wednesday

**ASH WEDNESDAY, Wednesday, March 5, 2025**

**St. James United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Randy Sohn, Organist     Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Yet in Christ, even dust holds promise. As we begin Lent, may we embrace our humanity and trust in God's power to bring life from dust.

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

### **Call to Worship:**

In this season of Lent, we make our way to cross,

**We remember the steps that led Christ there: betrayal and fear,  
but also trust in God, and love for humanity.**

In this season of Lent, as we make our way to the cross,  
we strive to follow Christ's example:

to admit betrayal and fear that are part of life,

**To embrace trust in God and love for humanity.**

**So, we may make our journey and let us worship God.**

**Prayer:**

God of hope, you breathe into the dust of our lives and remind us of your steadfast love. Give us faith to open ourselves to pain and joy, death and life. Remind us of who we are as we join the unbroken line of the whole community of saints, from the beginning into eternity, as vessels of your love and grace. In Christ's name we pray. *Amen.*

**Hymn (#214)**

*Just As I Am (vs 1-2, 5-6)*

**Imposition of Ashes:**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season those new to the faith were prepared for Baptism. It was also a time when those who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled through repentance and forgiveness, and restored to the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you now to observe a holy Lent:

Renew yourself through prayer, repentance, and scripture – God's Holy Word.

Refresh yourself in mind, body and spirit; be healed of wrong and sin.

Be reunited, in God's great love, with Jesus Christ.

Come now, before a merciful God, Creator and Redeemer, to receive the imposition of ashes.

**St. James Choral Anthem:**

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

**Scripture Reading:**

Psalm 41 ESV

*But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,  
and raise me up, that I may repay them!*

*By this I know that you delight in me:  
my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.*

*But you have upheld me because of my integrity,  
and set me in your presence forever.*

**Message:**

*MUTUAL CONSIDERATION*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

## **Sacrament of Holy Communion:**

Beloved people of God:  
At a table that Jesus sets,  
God forgives us and feeds us with love eternal.  
In water and promise, in body and blood  
God brings us to new life  
and breathes into us gifts to serve the world.

You are forgiven, in the name of Christ,  
who calls us into the coming of God's reign  
where all are supported, nourished, and loved.

Blessed are you, O God of love.  
You birthed all creation,  
and became human for us in Jesus Christ.  
You speak to us through Scripture and Spirit;  
Your love is eternal.  
Meet us now in bread, wine, and juice.

On the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In this meal, we remember your Son Jesus,  
who took on our pain and suffering  
and transformed it into new life.  
Send your Spirit to meet us now.  
Compel your whole creation toward mercy,  
and fill us all with your everlasting and wide-reaching love.

## **Gracious God,**

**We give you thanks for the abundance of your steadfast love. As we are filled with your grace and mercy, as we are renewed in spirit. May you guide us and use us to bring about your reign of peace on earth. In the name of Jesus Christ, the holy one, we now pray:**

**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](http://stmstjucc.org)).

## Offertory Music:

*Lenten Meditation*

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

## Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

With gratitude for all the blessings you have poured into our lives, Lord Jesus, we come bringing these our gifts that they may be used in service to those in need. Bless these gifts and those who have given them, that they may truly be a blessing in your holy name. *Amen.*

## Hymn of Sending: (#219)

*Saviour, When In Dust To Thee*

## Benediction:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give to you peace of mind and heart. *Amen.*

## Postlude:

*A Song in Lent*

***COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!***

***St. James UCC***

***1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.***

***2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.***

***~Sunday School at St. James 9-10am ~***

***St. Mark's UCC***

***1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.***

***2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.***

***~Lenten Worship next week Wed., March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at St. Mark's~***

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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.stmarksstjamesucc.org](http://www.stmarksstjamesucc.org)

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