



An Open and Affirming Congregation

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent

JOURNEYING WITH JESUS DURING THE SEASON OF LENT

Prelude:

Welcome

Call to Worship (Responsively):

Jesus said, "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

Then let us lift up the Lord. Let us lift up our hearts and lift up the Lord in praise.

He and he alone is the one with the answer to what perplexes us and withers us; he and he alone has the word of life that breathes hope.

Let us draw near to the Lord who draws us close. Let us tell of his wonder and sing of his grace.

Hymn:

Just As I Am

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

O Lord, our Lord! Have mercy upon our souls for what we Christians have done to Christianity. O Lord, our Lord! Have mercy upon our souls for what we Christians have done with Christianity. Two thousand years of your message of love and justice for the poor, the sick, the marginalized seem to have accounted for almost nothing, for still there are the poor, and still there is hatred, mistreatment, and looking the other way among Christians and by Christians. We have held to the gospel of decency and magnanimity as though by a hand that has withered into ineffectiveness. We Christians have been so negligent in doing something with the faith that people the world over, and right here in our community, feel they can neglect the church and its gospel and sense they are missing nothing. O Lord! For what we have let lie still, unspent, unused, unappreciated, even unopened – have mercy upon our souls. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Pastoral Prayer and 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, for ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Mark 3:1-6

Sermon:

Stretching Forth a Withered Hand

He . . . said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. Mk. 3:5

Hymn:

I Love To Tell the Story (omit v. 3)

Benediction

Postlude:

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Yurs, Pastor

Dawn Lingard, Organist/Pianist

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