



St. John's United Church of Christ  
**Second Sunday of Lent**  
 February 16, 2024



**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER** (be seated)

**CHURCH BELL** (the bell invites us to worship) **PRELUDE**

**GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

With Jesus by my side, the righteous path I take.

**I in his flock abide, e'en for his own names sake.**

God cares for me in all my needs, through each dark valley safely leads,

**On green pasture richly feeds. Now is the time of worship.**

\***OPENING HYMN** *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* (vs. 1 & 3) #587

\* **WE INVITE GOD TO WORSHIP** (unison)

**Loving God, we invite your presence to dwell with us as the valleys of Lent loom ahead. Be our guardian, guide and shield as we journey to the cross and beyond. Amen.**

\***RESPONSE** *How Great Thou Art* (chorus only) #33

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** *Jesus Loves Me*

**OFFERING INVITATION**

Let us give back to God with gratitude for all blessings received.

\***RESPONSE** *Lord, Jesus, Who through Forty Days* (v. 3) #180

\***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

**You are the God who creates us, the Christ who redeems us, the Holy Spirit who fills us with hope. May we and our gifts be instruments of your purpose here on earth. Amen.**

**WE GATHER IN PRAYER**

Silent Prayers – Pastoral Prayer-The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Congregational Response tune: *Go to Dark Gethsemane* #196

*In the steps our Savior trod / Let us follow faithfully,*

*Where the sinless Son of God / Went to set us sinners free.*

*Mark each footstep in the strife / Of the Way, the Truth, the Life*

**ANTHEM**

*Always There*

Althouse

**SCRIPTURE:** Old Testament: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

New Testament: John 6:27-40

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE:** *The Jordan Valley*

\***CLOSING HYMN** *Lift High the Cross* (vs. 1,3,5) #108

\***BLESSING** (responsively)

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the universe. Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their faith.

**They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Amen.**

\***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Go In Peace* #445

\* **POSTLUDE**

\*\*You may place your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary or online at myucc.org and clicking on the *contribute* button. Please prayerfully consider setting up regular online donations to continue our outreach into the community

**LENTEN MOVIE & DISCUSSION** nights will take place during the Lenten Season on several Sunday evenings. Tonight's movie is *Conclave* starring Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow and Isabella Rossilini March 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Bring your own beverage.

**VALLEYS OF LENT** will be the theme for worship during the Lenten season and we will be exploring messages from various valleys from the Bible. Today is the Jordan Valley.

**AMISTAD SUNDAY** on March 23<sup>rd</sup> we'll explore the 1839 incident in which the ship *La Amistad* (Friendship) was taken over by slaves in an unprecedented uprising. The slaves ordered the surviving crew members to return the ship to Africa but U.S. officials intercepted the ship off the coast of Connecticut. The legal battle that ensued went all the way to the Supreme Court. Forebearers of our United Church of Christ were strong advocates for the prisoners, providing food and clothing while they were incarcerated and legal representation for the court battle.. The story became a film directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Morgan Freeman, Anthony Hopkins and Matthew McConaughey. The Amistad incident was a defining moment for the movement to abolish slavery. The Amistad incident helped create momentum for the formation of the American Missionary Association in 1846.