

St. James United Church

March 10, 2013, 11:00 am

Lent 4

Minister:	Rev. Bill Bartlett
Minister of Visitation:	Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
C.E. Lay Minister:	Susan Sheppard
Organist/Choir Director:	Dr. Philip Roberts
Assistant Organist:	Gillian Burry
Choir:	Youth/AOTS
Director:	Doreen Brown
Guitar Group:	Herb and Marjorie Carruthers

Organ Prelude

Welcome

Introit: Spirit of Life

Call To Worship (responsive)

(L) From far-away places, from close at hand; with hearts troubled,
with minds at rest, welcome your people, Holy One.

(P) For we come to worship you.

(L) Carrying heavy loads, travelling light; walking in fear, living in
faith, welcome your people, Holy One.

**All: For we come to worship you with all that is good in our lives,
with all that hurts and hinders us, with past and present in us
and the future before us. We come to worship you and find our
way home.**

Prayer of Approach (unison)

Creating God, still Center of the world you have made, we come to you in this season of turning and returning. We do not know how to seek you with our whole hearts, but we know you are our source and our destiny. In the midst of life, we return to you as a prodigal child and we turn towards you. We thank you that you receive even the broken heart, the troubled conscience and the conflicted spirit. Amen.

Hymn: The Church in the Wildwood

There's a church in the valley by the wildwood,
No lovelier spot in the dale;
No place is so dear to my childhood
As the little brown church in the vale.

Chorus: Oh, come, come, come, come
Come to the church in the wildwood,
Oh, come to the church in the vale;
No spot is so dear to my childhood
As the little brown church in the vale.

Oh, come to the church in the wildwood,
To the trees where the wild flowers bloom;
Where the parting hymn will be chanted,
We will weep by the side of the tomb.

How sweet on a clear Sabbath morning,
To list to the clear ringing bell;
Its tones so sweetly are calling,
Oh, come to the church in the vale.

From the church in the valley by the wildwood,
When day fades away into night,
I would fain from this spot of my childhood,
Wing my way to the mansions of light.

Time with the children

Hymn: What a Friend We Have In Jesus 664

Offertory Invitation

Offering: I Know a Man Who Can

Offertory Hymn: We Give Thee But Thine Own 543

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

Patient and loving God, you are always ready to welcome us home and you are always ready to welcome our gifts so that the good news of Jesus may be preached and lived in our time and place. This is why we give. Receive our offerings, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Hymn: In the Garden

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses;
and the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses.

Chorus: And He walks with me, and He talks with me
and He tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there
none other has ever known.

He speaks and the sound of His voice
is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
and the melody that He gave to me
within my heart is ringing.

Life and Work at St James

Prayer of Confession: (responsive) Back page of our bulletin

Words of Assurance:

Even as we walk slowly and unsure of foot, God runs to greet us.

Even as we cling to being in the right, God forgives what is left unspoken. Loved and held in God's arms we are made a new creation. Everything old has passed away, everything has become new.

The Word of God**Hebrew Scripture:** Joshua 5: 9-12

God takes away the shame of Egypt from the people.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 32

759

Blessed are those who are forgiven.

Anthem: Walking in the Light**Gospel:** Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

The prodigal son; the prodigal father.

Hymn: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

670

Meditation**Hymn:** He Touched Me (*Guitar Group*)

*Refrain: He touched me, oh He touched me.
And oh the joy that floods my soul.
Something happened and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.*

Pastoral Prayer**The Lord's Prayer****Hymn:** Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

266

Commissioning: (unison)

May the blessing of God give us strength for the journey;
may the Spirit of wisdom give us vision for the road;
may the love of Christ make us caring companions;
as together we go forth on the Lenten journey. Amen

Choral Benediction: My Peace**Organ Postlude**

Resources for the worship service printed with permission from *Gathering, Lent and Easter 2013, Worship for All Season II & Celebrate God's Presence.*