

St. James United Church

March 3, 2013, 11:00 am

Lent 3

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:	Senior

Organ Prelude

Welcome

Introit: Love Us into Fullness

Call To Worship (responsive)

(L) Now, for something completely different: in this place, at this time, we seek God,

(P) whose ways are not our ways, whose thoughts are not our thoughts.

(L) I invite you to be in God's presence, to be open to God's Spirit.

(P) We will be open to new possibilities for each of us and our congregation.

Prayer of Approach (unison)

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Put a new spirit within me. Like the fig tree that bears no fruit, we seek to be more. Our deepest longing is to be fruitful. Sprinkle us with water and we will grow. Surround our roots with your presence, and we will overflow with plenty.

Hymn: God of the Sparrow 229

Time with the Children

Hymn: I Love to Tell the Story 343

Offertory Invitation:

At times we feel like the barren fig tree and wonder what we have to offer back to God. Yet we know that new life remains locked in our roots and will burst forth with tender caring. Let us give our offering today so that others may know new life in your Spirit.

Offering Love Knocks and Waits

Offertory Hymn: Spirit of the Living God 376

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

You call us, God, to give of ourselves in the service of your creation. Though so often we count only what we lack, remind us to note what others need. Bless us as we share these gifts we return to you. Encourage us to live lives of commitment to Jesus' way. Amen.

Life and Work at St James

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

Words of Assurance:

Though we may feel alone, God never abandons us. Though we may have our doubts, Christ is always faithful. Though we may not feel the presence of the Spirit, the power of the Spirit is always there. Thanks be to God who is with us every step of the way.

The Word of God

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 55: 1-9

Come, buy wine and milk without money

Responsive Reading: Psalm 63: 1-8 781

I long for you, O God

Anthem: O God, Why Are You Silent?

Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9

The parable of the barren fig tree

Hymn: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 651

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Just As I Am 508

Commissioning: (unison)

May we be blessed on the journey that is ours to make; blessed with the spirit of Christ within us; blessed with sturdy companionship and great love; blessed with integrity of purpose to meet the challenges that are ours. May we make this Lenten journey knowing that we are not alone, that God is with us, and that God will never leave us nor forsake us.

Choral Benediction: Be Still and Know

Organ Postlude

Resources for the worship service printed with permission from *Gathering, Lent and Easter 2013* and *Worship for All Season II*.

Ushers

Jean Thompson
Reid Crowthers
Dylan Matthews
Katie Vardy
Jordan Goodwin
Douglas Matthews
Olivia Sharp
Hannah Sheppard
Jillian Grenning

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Emergency Pager: 727-4067
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Help Us To Help You

<input type="checkbox"/> Sickness	<input type="checkbox"/> Call from Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> Visitor
<input type="checkbox"/> Envelopes	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address

Name: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____