



"Daily Prayer V" by Mike Moyers.

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH**
OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor
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This weekend we observe the second Sunday of Lent. During this season, we are reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats – every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward. As Lent begins, we are invited in once again to community, to this season, to our own spiritual journey, to true transformation.

The disciples seemed to be stuck in a loop of messing up again and again. We can be like them, too. We cling to power. We climb the ladder. We memorialize Christ's teachings rather than embodying them. We cannot be trapped by shame, guilt, ignorance, or inaction. Humility is required for transformation. We must listen to God – and to others. *Again and Again, We Are Called to Listen.*

**Please recite the PURPLE words aloud.*

Prelude

Komm her zu mir, spricht Gottes Sohn

Buxtehude

Words of Welcome

Opening Song

The Summons/Will You Come and Follow Me

- 1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**
- 2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**
- 3. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

Kinesthetic Call to Worship

Sarah Are

One: Today in worship, we will be reminded that again and again, we are called to listen. This is part of our invitation as people of faith – to not only speak, pray, and sing, but to listen.

And I will be the first to say, listening is hard. From our toddler years on up, we struggle to listen, particularly when we don't know what we're listening for or we don't agree with what we're hearing.

So for just a moment, as we gather ourselves for worship, I want to invite you to join me in a kinesthetic call to worship by embodying our prayer as I prompt you. Let us listen, let us pray:

Family of faith, I invite you to close your eyes.
Rest your feet on the floor beneath you.
Release any tension you are holding –
In your jaw, your neck, your shoulders, your hands, your legs, your feet.
Take a deep breath in and slowly let it out.
The Hebrew word for breath (*ruach*) is the same word for Spirit.
So as you breathe, imagine that it is God who is filling up your lungs with energy and love. Trust that God is as close as your very breath.
Now I invite you to still your mind. Imagine your mind as a river.
Thoughts will drift into view; they always do.
However, instead of holding onto those thoughts, allow yourself to let them float by.
And listen.
Listen deep.
Listen far.
Listen wide.
Listen.
The sound of your breath is the sound of the Divine.
This is a holy space.
Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

*Creator God,
We cannot hear the trees growing – seeds pushing up through the dirt into the sun.
And we cannot hear a single drop of rain, missing one in the many.
We cannot hear the weight of people's grief, a burden that so often is silent.
And we cannot hear when hearts are changed, but you can.
You hear it all.
So once again, we come to you with bowed heads and hopeful hearts,
Asking that you would lend us your ears.
Help us to hear as you hear so that we can live as you lived.
We are listening.
Amen.*

Old Testament

[Psalm 22:23-31](#)

Psalm 22 is a psalm of praise. In this selection, the psalmist praises God for God's deliverance to the descendants of Jacob and Israel. The psalmist praises God for God's provision when they were in need and calls upon all peoples to join in praise. All the nations will worship God and future generations – unborn – will sing of God's greatness.²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴ For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him. ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ²⁸ For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. ³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, ³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

New Testament

[Mark 8:31-9:8](#)

In today's lesson from Mark, Peter tries to talk Jesus out of going to his death, but Jesus rebukes him. After Peter declares Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus told them about the terrible suffering and death he would be subjected to soon. From here on out, Jesus' ministry turns towards Jerusalem and his death. Peter took Jesus aside and rebuked him, but Jesus turned and rebuked him right back with the memorable words: "Get behind me, Satan!" Jesus addresses the crowd with the paradox of Christian faith: "Those who want to save their life would lose it and those who lose their life for his sake would find it."

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

9 ¹ And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

Sermon

Again and Again, We Are Called to Listen

Rev. Dan Stark

Song of Response

Take Up Your Cross

- 1. "Take up your cross," the Savior said,
"if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me."**
- 2. Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.**
- 3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
and let your foolish heart be still;
the Lord for you accepted death
upon a cross, on Calv'ry's hill.**
- 4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,
and calmly ev'ry danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life
and leads to vict'ry o'er the grave.**

Prayer of Confession

One: Often the first step to change is listening.

We have to listen to those we've hurt.

We have to listen to creation as she cries.

We have to listen to the voice of the oppressed,

If we ever hope to make things right.

So today as we begin our prayer of confession,

We will start with a moment of silence —

A moment to listen.

And then we will pray together trusting that God is always listening to us,

And that God's ears listen with love.

So let us confess, silently and then together...

One: Listening God,

All: Take what is closed in us and open it.

Take what is distracted in us and settle it.

Take what is hurting in us and hold it.

Take any and all parts of us that create distance from you.
For we are like Peter, O God.
We argue what we don't know. We fear what we cannot see.
And we almost always speak sooner than we listen.
So open us, settle us, hold us, and forgive us.
We long to hear you more clearly.
We long to know you more fully.
With hope we pray,
And with gratitude we confess. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

One: Siblings in Christ, We confess with gratitude because we know that God already has heard and forgiven us. No matter what we have done or left undone, we are held in God's hand.

So rest in this good news:

All: God invites us in.

God meets us where we are.

God hears our prayers.

God forgives us.

One: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Prayers of the People

Hear Our Prayers, O God...

For health & healing: *God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.* Ps. 147:3

We pray for:

~Ian, husband of Molly Pufall Brown as he receives treatments of chemotherapy every 2 weeks for 2 months for stage 2 Hodgkins lymphoma. Prayers also for Molly and their daughters during this difficult process. They are encouraged as this type of cancer has a 90% + success rate.

~Melissa Franco as she suffered a miscarriage at the end of last year and is greatly struggling with the loss. She is asking for prayers of peace and comfort, as she is dealing with feelings of depression.

~ Kim O'Brien as she receives chemotherapy treatments.

~Judy, niece of Ken Klockow as she is on chemo for breast cancer.

~Emily, her husband and 2 young children, Andy Oren's friend as she was just diagnosed with systemic scleroderma, a serious auto-immune disease.

~Ken Klockow as he deals with lower back pain and restrictions.

~Ken's sister who was moved to a nursing home and has a serious chronic infection and dementia.

~For the Redlin family as they remember the 14th anniversary of mother Viola Redlin's passing.

~Susie Klockow's Aunt Evelyn who is in hospice and Aunt Eleanore who had a stroke and is in home hospice, also for her daughters and granddaughters who are taking care of her.

~Johnny, friend of the Klockows who has COVID and other health problems.

~Continued prayers for Jack and our niece, Dawn, and their three children as Jack continues chemo treatments. They are grateful that he is home, but now he has to be driven twice a day to the hospital for chemo. Prayers of thanksgiving that he is home and prayers for healing. From Dick & Joan Gaeth.

~Bob Kroening as he receives chemo drug treatments. Thankful that they are going well so far.

~Joe and Laurie, son in law and daughter of Jackie Struck. Prayers for continued healing for wounds as he goes to wound care.

~Nick Miller, nephew of Nancy & Brad Charles who has started using heroin again. Prayers for the whole family.

~Dawn & Brad Dayton, daughter in-law and son of Laurel as she manages diabetes and dialysis 4 times per week and he recently broke his arm.

~Tracy, daughter of Nancy Kaye, who is at home with Nancy awaiting liver and kidney transplants. She is doing well.

~Continued prayers for Julene Flanagan's nephew, who is struggling with mental health issues.

~Uncle of Julene Flanagan's husband as he went in for surgery last week due to an open wound on his foot that would not heal (he is a diabetic along with his kidney disease) and they had to amputate his leg above the knee to get all of the infection. Unfortunately, due to all of his medical problems they feel they can't do anymore for him and he is now in hospice. We are devastated by this news and feel pretty helpless being so far away. From Julene Flanagan.

~Dan, friend of Molly Pufall Brown, who is very sick and discouraged with an undiagnosed illness. Prayers also for his wife and 2 young children as the eldest child is being taken care of by the grandma and his wife works full time and struggles to also take care of their youngest child.

~Kelley, friend of Nancy Charles as she receives radiation treatment for breast cancer.

~Bernee, friend of Nancy Kaye who has end-stage lung cancer and is in a nursing home in hospice.

Prayer Song

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

1. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

2. The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Call to Offering

UCC Worship Ways (adapted)

Without talking back, without pushing back, without asking questions, without why, what for, how much is enough, how comes and more. Let us move into God's love. Let us go in-between with God to offer our gifts. Let us give God our thanks in our tithes and offerings. Please give as you are able. www.uccmke.org/donate

Prayer of Dedication

*In-between God,
Bless these gifts with your love
So that we might share them quite openly
With all who need your change. Amen.*

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
A-men.**

Lenten Poem

Truth That Ricochets

Sarah Are

I went to a lecture once –
An interfaith conversation with interfaith leaders.
Whispers bounced off the church's tile floors
As people shuffled into place,
Carrying hope alongside assumptions –
Mixed into pockets like loose change.
About halfway through the evening,
A young woman in a blue hijab began speaking.
She was the youngest person on the panel,
Seated far to the left. You might almost miss her
If you weren't paying attention;
But not here, not when she spoke.
In quiet determination she told us of fear and persecution.
She told us of hatred and racial slurs,
Thrown at her people from car windows like bombs.
It was a truth I did not know, And that truth ricocheted like sunlight through the
cathedral windows,
Touching almost everyone that day.
Then a man in the back, who could have been me –
Who has been me –
Approached the microphone and said,
"Your people are persecuted. You live in fear. You are battered by hate.
If that is true, then why am I just now hearing about it?
Why is your story not on the news?"

Why have you not spoken up about it?"
And the air was still, partly because we held our breath in anticipation,
And partly because the Spirit slows her dance when we stand at the edge of truth.
The woman in the blue hijab leaned into the microphone
And whispered with a quiet strength that can only come from years of practice:
"We are screaming."
If there is one truth in my life
That unfolds again and again,
It is the need to listen.
For again and again, I will try, with good intentions,
To act and walk with love.
But again and again, I will make mistakes.
Again and again, I will say the wrong thing.
Again and again, they will call me Peter,
And again and again, they will be right.
So again and again,
I will pray for a truth that ricochets,
For ears that will listen,
And for space to hold truth.
If people are screaming,
And to be clear – people are screaming –
I do not want to miss it.

Closing Song

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

- 1. I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me; all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
- 2. In my trials, Lord walk with me; in my trials, Lord walk with me; when my heart is almost breaking, Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.**
- 3. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble; Lord, walk with me; when my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

Lenten Charge

*As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm –
Again, and again and again, Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. Amen.*

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Some Prayers and Liturgies by UCC Worship Ways

Some prayers and liturgies by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!

Joyce Jakimczyk March 1

Neil Feest March 5

Ezra Misleh March 5

Jerald Veit March 5

Darren Stezala March 6

Thanks

~We accept with gratitude and appreciation a donation in memory of Howard Fritsch from Jackie Struck.

Announcements

BVCC Diaper Drive March 6th thru March 13th

In honor of International Women's Day the BVCC is hosting a drive for donations of diapers, wipes and monthly feminine products and/or monetary contributions. Donations can be dropped off at the center Tuesday-Saturday 9:30am-12:30pm Tuesday thru Fridays. The center is located at 1320 E. Oklahoma Ave.

Volunteers Needed

Friday night volunteers for SOS DI meal distribution

It would be helpful if we could get 2 more sets of Building Reps so that volunteers will repeat about every 6-8 weeks. Just 1.5 hours on a Friday evening starting at 4:45pm.

Please contact Jim Wick for information and/or to sign up. Thanks.

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.

Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

We are currently worshipping online-only.

You can make your offering to Christ Church at www.uccmke.org/donate or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207

