

February 21, 2021

1st Sunday of Lent

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome to worship at Merville United Methodist Church.

As we worship, I hope you will feel the presence of God.

- We are now having in-person worship services in our Sanctuary at 10:15am on Sunday mornings.
- Please note that the church building does remain closed Monday – Friday to visitors. If you are in need of speaking to Holli our Administrative Secretary or myself please call the church office.
- We encourage you to continue to mail in your gifts and offerings to the church office or you may set up online giving by contacting Holli our administrative secretary. You will need to fill out a form and provide a voided check.

Gathering Words

Opening Hymn *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Lord, who throughout these forty days

For us did fast and pray,

Teach us to overcome our sins,

And close by You to stay.

As You with Satan did contend

And did the victory win,

O give us strength in You to fight,

In You to conquer sin.

As You did hunger and did thirst,

So teach us, gracious Lord,

To die to self, and only live

By Your most holy word.

And through these days of penitence,

And through Your Passion-tide,

For evermore, in life and death,

O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us that, when this life

Of suffering is past,

An Easter of unending joy

We may attain at last!

Call to Worship

Leader: After he was baptized by John, Jesus went by himself to the wilderness where he was tempted.

People: Forty days in the desert, Jesus was tempted to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful.

Leader: Today, we begin to journey with Jesus through the season of Lent, which brings us to face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.

People: Let us worship God and walk the journey together, seeking the spirit as our guide and companion along the way.

Pastoral Prayer

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song *Spirit Song*

Oh let the Son of God enfold you
With His Spirit and His love
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul
Oh let Him have those things that hold you
And His Spirit like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you whole
Jesus oh Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs
Jesus oh Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs

Oh come and sing the song of gladness
As your hearts are filled with joy
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name
Oh give Him all your tears and sadness
Give Him all your years of pain
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name
Jesus oh Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs
Jesus oh Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs

Words of Preparation

Scripture – Mark 1:9-15

⁹About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. ¹⁰While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. ¹¹And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

¹² At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him. ¹⁴ After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, ¹⁵ saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message "Believe" *Pastor Jill*

Prayer for Lent

God, as we take this journey, that draws us ever closer to you, walk with us, sustain us, nurture us.

God, as we go through the wilderness of lent and of our lives, send your manna to us, give us wisdom to turn from temptation and your grace to turn to. God, as we walk through the pot holes of life, the valleys, the pits of life, guide us with your hand, keep our feet steady, and our vision on you.

God, whether we choose to give up something for lent or do something positive, let us not do it out of obligation or the tyranny of oughtness, but out of love for you. Keep us in your paths of love, mercy and grace. Lord help us to remember we are not alone but that we are walking with our fellow travelers. Amen.

Closing Song *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me,
My Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will.
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.

Blessing & Commission