**ST. JOHN’S and ST. PAUL’S UCC**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**March 16, 2025**

RINGING OF THE BELL

 THE PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (UCC Worship Ways)

ONE: When the world around me is disturbing, where do I turn?

**ALL: A psalmist says, “The Lord is my light and my salvation.”**

ONE: When I am afraid, what can I count on?

**ALL: “The Lord is a fortress protecting my life.”**

ONE: We gather in the light of God’s protection.

**ALL: We come to pray, praise and sing. Let us worship God together!**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION(UCC Worship Ways)

**Gracious God, prepare us to receive you. May our eyes behold you in those around us. May our ears receive your word. May our hearts be open to your teaching and leading. In this precious moment, may we know you in new ways. In times of chaos, we can be startled by sudden declarations, distracted by claims of solutions to problems. Forgive us, God, for our wandering from you. Forgive us, when our own fears draw other people’s attention away from you. Help us to act, not from anxiety, but from faith in your certain presence. Help us to slow down and recognize you within and around us. Amen.**

SONG #189 – Down at the Cross

 THE READING OF SCRIPTURE: St. John’s – Patty Stuckmann St. Paul’s: Stephanie Shepherd

Philippians 3:17-4:1 A Call To "Stand Firm" In the Lord (NRSVUE)

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Luke 13:31-35 The Lament over Jerusalem (NRSVUE)

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”

FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

THE MESSAGE – Standing Firm in Christ: Citizenship in Heaven, Purpose on Earth

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SONG (on monitors) [Standing Firm](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIVqoRVfAJw) - Marigold Loves Jesus

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Joys and Concerns*)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (St. John’s: *debts/debtors;* St. Paul’s: sins/sin against us)

**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 (*debts*/sins), as we forgive (*our debtors*/those who sin 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.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY (UCC Worship Ways)

 **In gratitude for what we have received, and for the joy of giving and sharing, let us offer our gifts to God’s work through this church.**

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD #785 (*While the offering is brought forward*)

 **We give you but your own, what-e’er the gift may be;**

 **All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER (UCC Worship Ways)

 **Dear God, use our offerings of our resources and of our lives. Bless them, multiply them for your purposes in the world.**

SONG #197 – Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*THE BENEDICTION (UCC Worship Ways)

 ONE: Friends, nourished by your presence here, go boldly in the way of Jesus.

 **ALL: Receive the blessings of God, and be sustained by the Holy Spirit, today and always. Amen.**

\*THE POSTLUDE