

Elon Community Church United Church of Christ
The Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 22, 2020

Call to Worship

God, sometimes, the days are long, the nights are even longer, and we're so tired. You, O God, seem to soothe us and bring us to gentle places. Life is moving us to places we have never seen raising levels of anxiety high. You seem to surround us with stillness and bring an even rhythm to our breath and life. The valley is dark right now and the shadows are heavy and we're afraid. Your strength is the place we turn to even now, and we find courage and hope. We praise You, O God for you dwell with us forever, Keeping us near. We will worship You this day and always! And so, Magnificent God, Awaken us to your holiness, inspire us with your creative power, and peel back our layers of anxiety and fear. Enliven us to see in new ways your love for us as we struggle and strive to be who you call us to be. In Christ's holy name we pray. **Amen.**

Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross (verse 1)

Feel free to sing along with Stephen Futrell

*Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain, free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.
In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever, till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

Prayer of Confession

O Wise and Gracious God, You have designed us to work together. And yet, we continue to think we are on our own to live as if our strength lies in our individuality. We confess to you that we often find it easier to celebrate our solitude, to thrive on our individual gain, and to seek ways to lift ourselves above the canvas as more important than others. We pray that you will impress upon us your definition of "one" as together, and that we will seek both the ability and the courage to move away from "one" that is each of us alone. Forgive us, we pray.

Prayer of Assurance

We thank you, O God, for your steadfast love and presence. Knowing that Christ sets us free in forgiveness and brings us together in love we proclaim, "Thanks be to God." Amen.

First Scripture Lesson

Ephesians 5: 8-14

Greetings to the Children

Gospel Lesson

John 9: 1-41

Sermon

Who Is This? Part Three: Seeing the Way

Rev. Randy Orwig

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

*Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When the shadows appear and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

Benediction

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