

CHILMARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024

MEDITATION

"Have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself."

— St. Francis de Sales

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Quiet

Introit *This Is the Day (x2)* #657

*Call to Worship (*please stand as you are able)

One: The season of Lent can be barren and lonely,

All: God goes with us through the wild wilderness.

One: Our lives are lived in seasons of transitions and transformations, where we ponder God's providence and persistence;

All: We are assured that the barrenness of Lent will give way to the fruitfulness of Easter.

One: In this season of pondering, let us gather before God, as a faith family, with strength and courage.

All: Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands* #273
Rolino Joseph, French lyrics

Prayer of Invocation and Lord's Prayer (together, seated)
O God, there are many things that stand between us and the life you intend for us to lead. Like the frozen ground stifling back a bulb's expression of life: these things subdue spirits struggling to bloom. A lack of courage chills the ground of our being and prevents our challenging the cold grip of injustice. A sense of isolation allows for dormancy of faith and permits us to be content without growing into the world. As we gather, O God, thaw us out. Lend us the life giving

warmth of your love. Help us to bloom as persons nourished by that love. **All of these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:** *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.*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scriptures Psalm 19
John 2:13-22
Sermon Business as Usual? Rev. Dr. Wright
Interlude
Pastoral and Silent Prayer
Prayer Response

THANKSGIVING

The Offering
*Doxology #95
*Unison Offering Prayer
God we bring ourselves to you, just as we are. We bring our gifts and our talents to you, asking for you to bless them and help them to grow that they might be food to the hungry, resources to the needy, and love to the unloved. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (insert)

*Hymn *God Be with You* #672
Benediction
Postlude *Breaking Bread* Cash

Please join us for Fellowship and Coffee in the parish hall after the service
Rev. Dr. Charlotte Wright, Pastor
Sean McMahon, Music Minister
Emily Broderick, Lay Leader