

Live from St. John's Chapel – A Thursday Evening Prayer Service

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Come into the light!

People: **We know the darkness better. The Light frightens us.**

Leader: Come into the presence of Love.

People: **Our fears and doubts overwhelm us. We feel unable to move.**

Leader: Come let God's love wash away your sorrow.

People: **Please help us. We are filled with fear and sorrow. Bring us healing. AMEN.**

**Opening Prayer**

All: Lord, help us to know your powerful presence this night. We have come to this place shrouded in darkness both of night and of spirit. Bring us to your healing light. Lift our souls and spirits to receive your direction. In Christ's Name, we pray. AMEN.

**Prayer of Confession**

All: Just last Sunday we experienced such joy! We were on the mountain top with Jesus, witnessing his conversation with Moses and Elijah. Now we have been cast into the darkness. And this darkness is deeper than night - it is the darkness of the unknown. Tonight we will hear words that will chill our spirits. We will receive the mark of the ashes and be reminded of the sacrifice and commitment we are about to make for the journey. Forgive us for our fears and hesitancy, Lord. Heal our spirits. Enable us to enter into this time of learning and testing with courage and trust. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

## **Words of Assurance**

Pastor: The night is dark, but there is a Light which has overcome the darkness. He is the Light of the World - he will illuminate your pathway. Place your trust in him. AMEN.

## **Meditation**

*Private Practice*, by Rev. Mark Katrick

## **Pastoral Prayer:**

Pastor: Let us lift up our hearts to the Lord in prayer.

### *Silence*

Tonight we receive the smudges of ashes. We come forward and are marked as disciples, as those who have been called, cleansed, forgiven, and healed. We do not step foot on this journey lightly - for it will not be easy. There will be times of great joy and wonder; and there will be times of confusion and fear. But through all of this, God is with us, guiding, comforting, leading us. We have raised in prayer names of those we love who need your healing mercies, O Lord. We have lifted up situations of pain, loneliness in confidence of your amazing grace. Though the night is dark, and there is much darkness in the world, we will place our trust in your Son, whom you have blessed and given to us. Help us to follow in His steps and place our trust in Him as we enter this Lenten journey; for it is in His name that we pray. AMEN.

## **Blessing and Receiving the Ashes**

### **Benediction**

Leader: Though the night is dark, the Light of the world goes before you. God guides your steps and surrounds your life. Go in peace, ready to serve the One who has always loved you. AMEN.