

## MUMC At-Home Worship: March 14, 2021

We're making good progress through the Gospel of Mark! This week's scripture is rich in its complexities and I encourage you to spend some thoughtful time with it, whether using the reflection questions or perhaps reading it aloud and letting the words linger in the air and on your heart. Thanks for worshipping with us today! ~ *Pastor Dillon*

*If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:*

Lord, help us use this Lenten season to draw near to you. Strip away all that distracts us and open our eyes to see you anew. Refresh our weary hearts to beat with your love and compassion. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

**Hymn:** *Where He Leads Me*, United Methodist Hymnal #338 [watch/listen here](#)

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 8:27-38

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### Reflect:

1. Much of Mark's gospel is centered around the question Jesus asks his disciples here: "Who do you say that I am?" How might you answer this question? How has your answer changed over your faith journey? What might we still have to learn about who Jesus is?
2. While we would likely consider Peter's answer that Jesus is the Christ (also translated "Messiah") to be correct, it quickly becomes clear that while Peter may have given the correct title, he has nevertheless misunderstood what the role entails as he scolds Jesus for describing his upcoming suffering. Why might Peter have been so reluctant to accept that Jesus needed to die? Are there times when we too might reject the fullness of God in favor of a more comfortable partially correct understanding?
3. Sometimes we minimize Jesus' instruction to take up our crosses by equating our crosses with trivial inconveniences in our life. What might it look like today to live a life of cross-bearing? How might saying no to ourselves and letting go of our grip on our lives for Christ's sake help us deepen and grow in faith?

**Hymn:** *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*, United Methodist Hymnal #301 [watch/listen here](#)

**Prayer Requests:** Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

### Lord's Prayer

**Hymn:** *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*, The Faith We Sing #2129 [watch/listen here](#)

**Closing Prayer:** Holy God, remind us this day that knowing your name doesn't mean we have nothing more to learn about you. Help us put aside our fear of suffering and all other human thoughts to follow in the way of the cross. Amen.

*(Blow out the candle)*

***Where He Leads Me***  
**United Methodist Hymnal #338**

1. I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
"Take thy cross and follow, follow me."

Refrain:

Where he leads me I will follow,  
Where he leads me I will follow,  
Where he leads me I will follow,  
I'll go with him, with him all the way.

2. I'll go with him through the garden,  
I'll go with him through the garden,  
I'll go with him through the garden,  
I'll go with him, with him all the way.  
[Refrain]

3. I'll go with him through the judgment,  
I'll go with him through the judgment,  
I'll go with him through the judgment,  
I'll go with him, with him all the way.  
[Refrain]

4. He will give me grace and glory,  
he will give me grace and glory,  
he will give me grace and glory,  
And go with me, with me all the way.  
[Refrain]

*"Where He Leads Me" words are by E.W. Blandy, 1890; music is by John S. Norris, 1890; both are in the public domain.*

**Mark 8:27-38 (CEB)**

Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

They told him, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets."

He asked them, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ." Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father's glory with the holy angels."

*Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

***Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross***  
**United Methodist Hymnal #301**

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross;  
there a precious fountain,  
free to all, a healing stream,  
flows from Calvary's mountain.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross,  
be my glory ever,  
till my raptured soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star  
sheds its beams around me. [Refrain]
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day  
with its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]
4. Near the cross! I'll watch and wait,  
hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand  
just beyond the river. [Refrain]

*“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” words are by Fanny J. Crosby, 1869; music is by William H. Doane, 1869; and both are in the public domain.*

***I Have Decided to Follow Jesus***  
**The Faith We Sing #2129**

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
no turning back, no turning back.
2. The world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me,  
no turning back, no turning back.
3. Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
though none go with me, still I will follow;  
though none go with me, still I will follow;  
no turning back, no turning back.

*“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” words and music are by anonymous and both are in the public domain.*