

**LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE**  
**Wednesday, February 24, 2021**  
In community with those on the margins



**Pastor James Muske**  
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**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER**

- **SERVICE OF LIGHT**
- **EVENING HYMN**
- **EVENING THANKSGIVING**
- **PSALMODY, READINGS AND CANTICLES**

**READING: Mark 5:1-20**

*This reading highlights the visit of Nicodemus to Jesus at night. Though he is a leader in the community, his interest in Jesus pushes him to the outside of his own group and to*

*the edges of Jesus' followers. Those on the margins are also a part of our communities. When Jesus crosses over to the land of the Gerasenes he encounters and brings healing to a man who has been left on the margins and restores him to community.*

<sup>1</sup>They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. <sup>2</sup>And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. <sup>3</sup>He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; <sup>4</sup>for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. <sup>5</sup>Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. <sup>6</sup>When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; <sup>7</sup>and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." <sup>8</sup>For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." <sup>10</sup>He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. <sup>11</sup>Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; <sup>12</sup>and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." <sup>13</sup>So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea.

<sup>14</sup>The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. <sup>15</sup>They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. <sup>16</sup>Those who

had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. <sup>17</sup>Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighbor-hood. <sup>18</sup>As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. <sup>19</sup>But Jesus refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." <sup>20</sup>And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

Word of God, Word of Life.      **Thanks be to God**

**SERMON**

Pastor James Muske

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“God, You Move Across the Borders”**

(Sung to the tune of: "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens")

God, you move across the borders to the ones whom we won't see.

You walk with the weary traveler; you go with the refugee.  
You reach out to those we won't welcome; those you love whom we denied

You enfold with great compassion those who we would push aside.

God, you move among the suffering in this time of illness here.

You work through the people offering care amid the pain and fear.

In our grief and isolation, in the times it's hard to cope,  
You bring peace and consolation; you bring joy and love and hope.

God, you break down mighty barriers — sins we've sanctioned far too long.

We have walked on paths of privilege; you have moved to right the wrong.

You have sent your prophets to us, calling hateful ways a sin. You have judged us and renewed us; you have shown that love will win.

God, you move across the barriers, offering love in Jesus Christ.

Through your Son, our Lord and Savior, you have called: "Now share my life!"

By your Spirit, give us courage; help us boldly move to be loving, justice-seeking neighbors building your community.

Words adapted by Pastor James from *Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*

## **PRAYER**

Mender of division, you sent Christ to heal the world and to gather those on the margins. Bring your healing power to us. May we extend your power and grace to those separated from their communities and those longing for a tangible sign of your love. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

## **HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER (continued)**

- **THE ANNUNCIATION AND THE MAGNIFICAT**
- **LITANY AND PRAYERS**
- **FINAL BLESSING**

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