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Messages are uploaded to YouTube: St. Mark's & St. James UCC



**Sunday, January 16, 2022**

**St. Mark's United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Organist: Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn      Reader: Lori Roelse

Meditative Music

Bells Ring Prelude

Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: *All Glory Be to God on High*

**Call to Worship: (responsively)**

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. We live sustained by God's presence and love.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

L: We mourn the wounds of God's children.

**P: God weeps with us.**

L: As we give thanks for the brothers and sisters who have lived in faith,

**P: God gives thanks with us.**

L: As we struggle for justice,

**P: God struggles with us.**

L: As we strive for peace,

**P: God strives with us.**

L: As we work to build the beloved community,

**P: God works with us.**

L: As we offer gifts to all,

**P: God blesses us.**

L: Sisters and brothers rejoice!

**P: Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God.**

**Hymn of Praise: (#354 Pilgrim - Insert)**

*Open My Eyes*

**Young At Heart:**



**Prayer of Confession:**

Most holy and merciful God: we acknowledge and confess our slowness to do good, our blindness to injustice, and our complicity in deferring the dreams and hopes of the oppressed. We have at times refused to heed your call to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you, our God.

We condemn racial injustice in our pronouncements, yet we cling to the privileges derived from inequity. Help us to name our sin, to claim responsibility for our actions, and to change our behavior. In accordance with the commands of Jesus Christ, shake us from our sleep with your imperative to do justice; move us to action with the compassion of your grace; and give us courage to pay the price, however painful or costly, that the justice you will, may be done, on earth as it is heaven.

**Hymn of Assurance: (#217 Hymnal)**

*Rock of Ages*

**Scripture Reading:****Message:** *All God's Children Great and Small*

Genesis 1:26-31

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

**Offering**

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website (stmstjucc.org).

**Offertory Music:**St. Mark's: *Wie Schön Leuchtet**~ The offering is brought to the altar ~***Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)**

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives. *Amen.*

**Lord's Prayer**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

**Hymn of Sending:** (#51 Pilgrim - Insert) *He's Got the Whole World in his Hand*

**Closing Prayer: (all together)**

Gracious God, you create us and love us; you make us to live together in community. We thank you for Martin Luther King Jr. and all your children who have been filled with your vision for our lives and who have worked to bring your vision into reality. Fill us with your vision. Guide us to live by your vision, working to build the beloved community where everyone is welcomed, all are valued, power is shared, privilege is no more, and all your children know wholeness and well-being. Through Jesus Christ we pray. *Amen.*

**Benediction:**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, bring peace and joy into the lives of others, give respect and honor to all whom you encounter, and be blessed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy spirit. *Amen.*

**Postlude:**St. Mark's: *Praise and Thanks for the New Year*

