



Sunday, January 30, 2022
St. James/St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz
Organist: Randy Sohn/Kathy Jurk

Meditative Music
Bells Ring Prelude
Gathering for Worship:

St. James: *Savior Leads Me*
St. Mark's: *God Himself Is With Us*

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: Our God is a God of power and strength!

P: God has created each of us with tender care.

L: Our God is a God of majesty and awe!

P: God walks with each of us every step of the way.

L: Our God is a God of glory and wonder!

P: God loves each of us with tenderness and passion.

L: Our God calls us each by name.

P: God calls each of us to unite in worship together!

Hymn of Praise: *(on-screen) St. Mark's*

Rejoice the Lord is King

Hymn of Praise: *(#38 Binder) St. James*

You are salt for the earth, O People

Young At Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

Maker of the universe; Giver of life; You who created with beauty and grace the iridescent wings of the hummingbird, and the inescapable awe and grandeur of the Andes Mountain range. We stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are at times reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. *Amen.*

Words of Assurance:

Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

“I have called you by name. You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.”

Hymn of Assurance: *(Binder #16)*

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 43:1-7

Message:

What's Important to Us? Names

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. James: *You Are Mine*

St. Mark's: *Take Time To Be Holy*

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Gracious God, we come today with praise for your glory; we come with gratitude for your love. As we offer these gifts to you, send your Spirit upon us, that our hands and our hearts may do your work in the world. As we offer our lives to you, bless us with your strength, that we may join with you to work for the blessing of peace throughout the world. *Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer and 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: (#386 Hymnal)

From All That Dwelt Below the Skies

Closing Prayer: (all together)

We come to your Word with faith and expectation, seeking to know what you want us to learn and do. Teach us your commandments and surround us with your love that we may know the joy of serving you. Grant us your transforming Spirit. *Amen.*

Benediction:

L: You are each precious in God's sight.

P: We go from this place, claiming our identity as children of God.

L: God has called you by name.

P: We go into the world to answer God's call. Alleluia!

Postlude

St. James: *Joyful!*

St. Mark's: *To Thee, O Lord, Our Hearts We Raise*

Isaiah 43:1-7 ESV

*But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my eyes,
and honored, and I love you,
I give men in return for you,
peoples in exchange for your life.
Fear not, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you.
I will say to the north, Give up,
and to the south, Do not withhold;
bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the end of the earth,
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”*



This week's celebrations:

Birthdays:

February 2nd – Kathryn Jaehnig

4th - Mark Jurk

5th – Judy Steinbeck and Mary Ann Vogel

No Anniversaries this week

WELCOME!

To the parents of young children:

Relax! *God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house.*

- ❖ *Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage.*
- ❖ *Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastors, musicians and leaders.*
- ❖ *Sing the songs, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behaviors by mimicking you.*
- ❖ *If you have to leave the Worship Center with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."*

If you or a family member are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Patrick at 920-693-2858 or leave a message on the church's answering machine at: 920-693-8361

LOOKING AHEAD...NEXT SUNDAY, Feb. 5th ...

***St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship
9-10am Sunday School***

***St. James: 10:30am Worship
Dogs2DogTags present during Worship
9-10:00 Sunday School***

CONFIRMATION CLASS - Wed., Feb. 2nd, 6-7:30pm, St. James

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY - Thursday, Feb. 3rd, 6:30pm

NO BIBLE STUDY GROUP THIS WEEK THURSDAY.



NEXT WEEK SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6th.... Dogs2DogTags, the group that spoke in October at St. James Mission Fest will be attending the 10:30am Worship Service at St. James and they are bringing Oliver! There will be a photo shoot after the service outside in front of the church sign with Oliver. Please plan on joining us to be part of this wonderful memory.

NEXT WEEK SUNDAY, FEB. 6TH, HS YOUTH Meeting, 5:30 at ST. Mark's.

GPS

Grow – deeper in our faith and relationship with God.

Pray – pray daily for family, neighbors, and others.

Study – read the Bible, pray over what we read, ask questions.

Additional Text: Proverbs 22:1; Isaiah 62:2; Isaiah 9:6

Names are an important part of our self-identification. Some might say a name is merely a label on the person, that the true identity is seen through his or her actions and inactions. Others will stand by their belief that everything is in the name. Hence, we see Sr. Jr. II, III, IV ... attached to a name. It is interesting that this is typically seen on the male side and not the female.

There could easily be a Patrick Sr., or Patrick Schultz III, if only my dad and grandpa had been with the program! But, there is no Kathleen the II. Nor Joanne the V.

In the Gospel of Matthew, much of the first chapter is dedicated to names ~ from Abraham to Joseph to Jesus, the lineage is listed. Throughout the Old Testament names are found, sometimes unpronounceable, but given nonetheless. Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah... can be found in Nehemiah 10 as the list of officials, Levites and priests on the seal of a commitment to follow the instructions as given by the Lord. They pen their names much as our country's leaders did with the Declaration of Independence.

Why are names so important? Because they are important to God. God gave the first human being the task of naming all wild animals and birds. God changed the name of Abram to Abraham and Sari to Sarah and later the name of Jacob to Israel. And then Saul to Paul.

And then there are the unnamed. The homeless woman on the street; the child running through the worst part of town – no parents, no guardians, just trying to stay alive, warm, and fed. The countless unnamed immigrants trying to reach safety. We may not know their names, but God does. God knows who they. And thank God for that.

Prayer: Thank you God for knowing us so very well and loving us still. *Amen.*