

2 CORINTHIANS



Sunday, January 7, 2024

St. Mark's and St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist

Sandy Perronne, Reader

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's:

Carols Of The Star

Call to Worship:

O Light of the world you stepped down into darkness,
**You opened my eyes and let me see beauty that made this heart adore
you, hope of a life spent with You.**

Here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down.

Here I am to say that You're my God, you are altogether lovely, altogether worthy.
altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, highly exalted, you're glorious in heaven above.

Humbly you came to this Earth, your creation, all for love's sake you became poor.
Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down.

Prayer:

**God of glory, we are humbly your servants, modestly your disciples, joyfully
your children created in your image. Bless us now and always that we may be
courageous bearers of the Good News – the Gospel of Jesus Christ – Word
become flesh to bring hope to the people and grace to their lives until called
home to be with you in your heavenly kingdom. Amen.**

Hymn:

St. Mark's (#231)
St. James (Insert)

Arise Your Light is Come

Affirmation of Faith: (Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

**And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;**

**The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the One Holy Universal Christian Church; the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Young at Heart:



Hymn:

St. Mark's (#502)
St. James (Binder - #4)

Be Thou My Vision

Scripture Reading:

2 Corinthians 11:16-29 ESV

I repeat, let no one think me foolish. But even if you do, accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. What I am saying with this boastful confidence, I say not as the Lord would but as a fool. Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast. For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!

But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food,^[b] in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

Message:*It's Not Cold Enough*

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:

*From Heaven Above To Earth I Come**~ The offering is brought to the altar ~***Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

God of hope and joy, the gifts we offer to you pale in comparison to all you have given us this season: wholeness in our woundedness, hope in our despair, peace in our turmoil, forgiveness in our rebellion. You gave us light in our darkness and hope in our discouragement. Help us embrace your extravagant generosity as we give ourselves to others. In our Savior's holy name, we pray. *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:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

St. Mark's (#71)

St. James (#8)

Benediction:

God of redemption and new life, God of forgiveness and love, we focus once more on the greatest gift ever given -- Jesus, our Savior. As he was born in Bethlehem and baptized in the Jordan, we receive the promise of sharing in Jesus' resurrection. As we leave one year behind and look with hope to the new year ahead, help us to live and give of ourselves as those who know every day what a great gift we have been given. May it move us to give our whole selves more freely! In the name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray! *Amen. Amen.*

Postlude:

St. Mark's:

Rejoice and Be Merry

COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!

St. James UCC

1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.

~Sunday School meets 9-10am at both churches~

St. Mark's UCC

1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.

Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Like us on Facebook 

Check out our Website: www.stmstjucc.org

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com

Staying Close, Staying Connected

Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

January 7th - Jim Becker II, Corey Vandoske
8th - Aubriana Peterson
9th - Scott Siekman

ANNIVERSARY:

January 10th - Kevin & Betty Kellner

HS YOUTH MEETING TODAY - Sunday, January 7th, 5:30pm

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING - Monday, January 8th, 6:30pm

MISSION/VISION TEAM - 8-9:30am at St. Mark's Saturday, January 13th.



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

**ST. JAMES ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE
ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH.**

ANNUAL MEETINGS AFTER THE 10:30 WORSHIP:

ST. MARK'S - Sunday, January 14th

ST. JAMES - Sunday, January 21st

WE NEED SAFE SANCTUARY HELPERS—an extra adult--to attend the high school youth group meetings. Please consider volunteering, it's a great way to get to know our wonderful HS youth



HELP SUPPORT OUR 2024
MISSION TEAM AT...

Culver's SHARE NIGHT

Monday, Jan. 15th: 4pm. - 8pm.

Please present our share slip or mention our name (St. Mark's, St. James, & Immanuel U.C.C.) so that a % of all sales will go toward our mission trip to Elliot County, Kentucky.

Valid only at Culver's Hwy. 42!

Share Night Slips

A portion of the sales raised from this slip will go to
(St Marks / St James U.C.C/ Immanuel Mission Trip)

Amount: \$ _____

No additional coupons or discounts to be applied. Good only on (January 15th). Valid only at Culver's on 4225 State HWY 42

Feel free to make extra copies and hand them out! ☺

The above sheet is a sample. The one to be turned in has to a full-size sheet. There are copies at church for you to take.

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

And so, the new year is upon us. We look over our shoulders for a rearview glimpse of the past year, we find ourselves already immersed in the moment and we look ahead to what might be. There's an old saying I heard that went something like this: *Don't dwell in the past, don't live in the future, stay in the present.*

Which is all well and good. But our past is our history, and we can't just ignore it. From our past we carry fond memories and lessons learned. We build upon those who have gone before us, relying on their wisdom and guidance. And as for the future, it is the promise of things to come – like the second coming of Christ – that brings hope to our present day. We plan for the future. We save for retirement. Without a doubt, the past and the future are important to us. But we *live* in the moment. The past and the future may help direct us but we don't live there.

In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul shares with the church the many ways he has suffered as an apostle: imprisonment, beatings with rods, whipped within an inch of his life, stoned, shipwrecked, danger from robbers and even his own people. Sleepless, hungry, thirsty, in cold and exposure... Let's not bother with the question, *why* would someone go through all of this? Instead, let's ask, *how* could someone go through all of this and keep on going? It's simple. Because the promise of hope resides upon him. Hope fulfilled in Jesus Christ – his death and resurrection. Christ's promise to eternal life. And a recognition that the suffering Paul is going through here on earth is as nothing compared to an eternal life with Jesus in God's kingdom.

From the past Paul is guided to share the Good News with others as Jesus commanded. In the present Paul suffers in doing so. In the future is Paul's salvation. It is a promise of Christ that those who believe in him shall accompany him in heaven. Paul is living into Christ's promise.

Lord, bless us that we always live according to your will. *Amen*

NOTES:

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."*