



Sunday, February 20, 2022

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

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Organist: Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn Reader: Sandy Perronne

Meditative Music

Bells Ring Prelude

Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: *Lord, Lift Me Up and Let Me Stand*

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: Wait for the Lord; be strong!

P: The promises of God will never be broken.

L: With God as our light, what is there to fear?

P: The promises of God will never be broken.

L: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

P: The promises of God will never be broken.

Opening Prayer:

We come to this place with different needs:

some of us wrestling with problems that threaten to overwhelm us;

some of us crying out for healing, for relevance, for refuge;

some of us hungering for what God alone can provide.

In this time and in this place, God is here and meets us face to face. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise: St. Mark's (on screen)
St. James (# 23 Binder)

*I Will Praise Him
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

Young At Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

Patient God, sometimes we are too busy to hear your soft words. Sometimes we rush along with our hectic schedules and demands on time and unsurprisingly find ourselves sapped of energy and spirit; and we miss your presence in our lives, your daily miracles and wondrous interactions with us. Slow us down a bit, Lord. Remind us again of the patient love that you have for us. Remind us again of Jesus' words to his disciples when he told them that they should love one another as he loved them. May we take time to bear witness to that love in all that we do. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

Words of Assurance:

When God is with us, whom shall we fear? The God of salvation will never forsake us. God's patience knows no limits. We will wait for the Lord. We will not be disappointed. We will be strong and take heart in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Hymn of Assurance: (#65 The Hymnal)

This is My Father's World

Affirming Our 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.

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 25:27-34; 27:30-36

Message:

Two Tales of One Man

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: *Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word*

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Faithful God, you have kept your promises to us. Our lives give witness to your abundant blessings. May we forever keep our promises to you. Strengthen our commitment to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ. Take these gifts as a sign of our promise to trust your love without reservation. *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: (#33 Binder)

Trust and Obey

Benediction: (responsively)

Go in the love of God, whose promises are never broken.

We go in the light of Christ, whose love transforms us.

Go in the power of the Holy Spirit, whose fire sustains and encourages us.

We go now into the world as witnesses of God's love, light, and power.

Go to love and serve our Lord in all you do, all you are, all you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

St. Marks's: *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

Genesis 25:27-34 ESV

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.) Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Genesis 27:30-36 ESV

As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. He also prepared delicious food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me." His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, "Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed." As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!" But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing." Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." Then he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

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

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: Phil 1:6; Genesis 25, 27-32; Heb 11:21

Jacob, a shady, manipulative, lying, opportunist stoops so far as to cheat his older brother out of his inheritance; and lies to/tricks his father as he is dying. Through all the shady and despicable actions that debased his life, God's love was unabating but never tolerant of his sinful ways. For many years Jacob chose his own path and along the way learned many painful lessons of "human independence" and the cost of "going it alone."

Eventually, Jacob contrived his way into a final crisis which God had been preparing for him.

Jacob's life illustrates not so much his perseverance and eventual pursuit of a saintly life, rather the perseverance of God. If it weren't for God, any pursuit of saintliness on Jacob's behalf would be impossible. Much like Israel who balked against God time after time, followed its own pursuits and discounted God's guidance; only God's perseverance, patience, unconditional love, and blessing allowed Israel to realize God's purpose for them.

Paul expressed that God knows no unfinished task. God will keep working until the task is complete according to His purpose.

Prayer: Lord, have your way with us and continue you work in and through us. In Christ's holy name. *Amen.*

NOTES:

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



This week's celebrations:

BIRTHDAYS:

*February: 21st – Linda Schroeder, Reid Vandoske
22nd – Scott Dexter, Peter Grunwald, Tom Nye
24th - Shelia Hemb
25th - Myron Hickman, Jason Riesterer, Bill Roelse
26th – Reick Beiersdorf, Amy Bodah, Amy Summers*

ANNIVERSARY:

February 26th – Bill & Laurie Heckmann

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."*

LOOKING AHEAD...NEXT SUNDAY, Feb. 27th ...

St. James: 9:00am Worship
9-10am Sunday School

St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship
9-10:00 Sunday School

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HS YOUTH MEETING - TODAY, Feb. 20th, at St. James, 5:30pm. *Be sure to bring your Bible.

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE - Tuesday, Feb. 22nd , 6:30pm

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE- TUESDAY, FEB. 22nd

CONFIRMATION CLASS- Wed., Feb. 23rd, 6-7:30pm at St. James

ST. MARK'S CHOIR PRACTICE - Wed., Feb. 23rd, 7pm AND next Sunday, Feb. 27th, right after the Worship Service there will be a brief run through Ash Wednesday's song.

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP - Thursday, Feb. 24th, 6pm at St. Mark's

HS YOUTH TRIP TO SUNBURST- Saturday, Feb. 26th. Leave St. Mark's at 1:00pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
with Communion
March 2nd, 7pm at St. Mark's

