



A SERVICE OF THE WORD
Sunday, February 11, 2024
St. Mark's and St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Kim Henning, Guest Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist

**“Christian worship is the most momentous,
most urgent,
most glorious action
that can take place in human life.”**

Karl Barth

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken

CALL TO WORSHIP

Greetings to you in the name of God. Amen.

Years ago, Jesus invited three disciples to go with him up a high mountain, apart, by themselves.

They went with Jesus up a high mountain.

They stepped aside from the ordinary world of taxes and politics.

They stepped aside from the mundane.

And they stepped into the extraordinary world of God.

Now Jesus was transfigured before their eyes.

His clothes became dazzling white such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice,

“This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”

Please pray with me,

Lord Jesus Christ, take us up the mountain with you.

Lead us into that extraordinary world of holiness.

In your presence, we mean to be humble.

In your presence, we mean to be listeners.

In your presence, we mean to be your servants. Amen.

HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

St. James (# 3)

St. Mark's (#82)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come into a setting like this knowing we come before an awe-inspiring God. At the heart of our faith, you and I are called to be humble and repentant. In such a spirit, I invite you to pray with me.

Unclutter our lives, O Lord. We have too much. We consume too much. And we have put ourselves too often on a pedestal. Forgive us, we pray. When we have too much, we are anxious. When we consume too much, we forget those who have too little. And when we put ourselves on pedestals, we forget that our highest calling is to serve. Have mercy on us, O God. We trust you with this life in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

People of faith, believe the Gospel. In Christ we are being transformed at this very moment from one degree of glory to another. We are loved. We are blessed. In Christ we are given hope for this life and the life to come. Praise be to God.

RESPONSE

Amazing Grace

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'til grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us greet one another with, "The peace of Christ be with you,"
and "Also with you."

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by
the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended
to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one, holy universal Christian Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6

(In the text you're about to hear, Paul acknowledges that there is a reluctance on the part of some to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul teaches his listeners that the God who spoke at the event of creation, is the same God who speaks through Jesus Christ.)

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-10

(On the last Sunday of Epiphany, the church honors an event in Jesus' life known as the Transfiguration. The story you're about to hear comes from the Gospel of Mark.)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART.....



A Childhood Fear.....

HYMN (St. James #55):

Sun of My Soul

CHOIR ANTHEM (St. Mark's):

Room in God's Love for You

SERMON

From Elijah to Elisha

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE 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.

THE OFFERING

God's gifts to creation and to us are abundant and ever-new. Entrusted with creation's care and with care for one another, we share our gifts out of our own abundance.

OFFERTORY

In This Holy Place

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Mighty God, you live, you love, and you do not leave us. With these gifts, we express our gratitude for you and our concern for those in need. Bless those who receive and benefit from these gifts. May they know your presence with them. With these gifts, our prayers rise up to you. Amen.

HYMN

St. James (#239)

St. Mark's (#66)

*Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know
To God Be the Glory*

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ceremonial March



We offer our sympathy to the family of Steven Warren Heckmann, member of St. James. Steven died on Friday, February 2nd, and a funeral service was held at Meiselwitz-Vollstedt-DeTroye Funeral Home yesterday. We offer our sympathy to the Heckmann family as they grieve his unexpected death.

We offer our sympathy to the family of St. James member, Donald Hemb. He died on February 2nd, and a funeral was held at St. James U.C.C. on Saturday. Donald is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Todd and Carla Hemb, and his daughter-in-law, Vickie Hemb.



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

February 12th – Amanda Russart

16th – Cole Herrmann

17th – Everit Gumm

ANNIVERSARY:

None this Week.

**TODAY—BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AT ST. MARK'S
FOLLOWING WORSHIP TO VOTE ON TWO ISSUES.**

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP, with communion, 7pm at St Mark's on
Wednesday, February 14th

CHOIR REHEARSALS – St. James, 6:30pm Tuesday, February 13th
St. Mark's, Wed., Feb. 14th, following Worship

MISSION/VISION TEAM meets Sat., Feb. 17th, from 8 to 9:30am at St. Mark's

HS YOUTH MEETING – next week Sunday, Feb. 18th, 5:30pm—location TBD

YOUTH CHILI DINNER FLIERS - are available in the back of church for anyone
who is willing to take them and hang them up at local businesses.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21ST.

Our quilters will be making quilts and lap robes. Our finished projects will go to Bridgeway in Sheboygan, Rocky Knoll Health Care Center in Plymouth, and Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

We are seeking a few donations:
cotton fabric
quilt batting
self-healing cutting board
working sewing machines
ironing board
iron

Please contact Lori Roelse with any questions, laroelse@gmail.com or 920-946-3540.



The next group meeting of the Quilting/Sewing Group is Tuesday, February 20th, 9-noon at St. Mark's.



TOURNAMENT!

ST. JAMES UCC
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024
1:00 PM

OPEN TO MEN & WOMEN OF
ST. JAMES & ST. MARK'S

Upcoming Rural Church Event

There are signs posted at each church with more information about these events

Sheepshead Tournament, sponsored by the UCC Rural Church Fellowship, Sunday, Feb. 18th, from 1-3pm at Bethlehem UCC. Doors open at 12:30. Entrance fee-canned goods and/or free will offering. All levels of skill are welcome, even beginners!

Soup Cookoff, sponsored by Rural Churches Mission, 11-2 on Sunday, Feb. 25th at Laack's Tavern & Ballroom. Enter your favorite soup for tasting; Come to taste the soups! \$10 adults/\$5 children 12 and under.

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

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."*