



Wednesday, March 6, 2024
St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Randy Sohn, Organist
Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

What Wondrous Love Is This

Call to Worship: (Psalm 39)

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry;
Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.

In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
for You answer me.

Gloria Patri:

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

Prayer:

We thank you, our God and Creator, that you have drawn us to your Son, Jesus Christ. His sign of sacrifice and love sustain us in our trials, comfort us in our sorrows, and strengthen us against temptation. Grant that the cross may be to us a continuing promise of the forgiveness of our sins as we observe a holy Lent. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our gracious Lord. Amen.

Hymn: (#221)

My Faith Looks Up To Thee

New Testament Reading:

John 1 2:20-30 ESV

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

*I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.
I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.
I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.
I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.
I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.
I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.*

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

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I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

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.*

Choral Anthem:

A Celtic Kyrie

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 41:5 ESV

*My enemies say of me in malice,
“When will he die, and his name perish?”*

Message:

Soon and Never
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Hymn: (See next page)

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

F $\frac{Gm}{F}$ F B \flat $\frac{E}{A}$ Dm C F $\frac{Am7(\flat 5)}{E\flat}$ D7 F \sharp dim7

There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I

Gm $\frac{D7}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ $\frac{E}{C}$ C F $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ F $\frac{E}{C}$ $\frac{Gm}{C}$

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are

F B \flat $\frac{E}{A}$ Dm C F $\frac{Am7(\flat 5)}{E\flat}$ D7 F \sharp dim7

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I

Gm $\frac{D7}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ $\frac{E}{C}$ C F $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ F

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.

Refrain
F $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ F $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ F $\frac{A7}{E}$ $\frac{A7}{C\sharp}$

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

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Dm G7 C7 F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F

with us, fill-ing us with your love; and for these bless-ings

F $\frac{A7}{E}$ $\frac{A7}{C\#}$ Dm $\frac{G7}{B}$ $\frac{E}{C}$ C $\#$ dim7 Dm

we lift our hearts in praise; with-out a doubt we'll know that

$\frac{G7}{B}$ $\frac{E}{C}$ C $\#$ dim7 Dm $\frac{C}{D}$ G7 $\frac{Bb}{C}$ C7 F

we have been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

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.*

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:

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Heavenly Father, your word says that we should give honor to you with the first fruits of our wealth. Accept our tithes and offerings as a gift of worship to you. Multiply what we give for the growth of your kingdom. May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith so that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may have the strength to know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge. May we be filled with all the fullness of God. Through Christ, our Lord, *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending: (#158)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Benediction:

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Go now in mercy and love, to serve the Lord: In all that you do; and all that you are and all you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Rathbun

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.

Lenten Services:

March 13th, 7pm, at St. Mark's UCC

March 20th, 7pm, at St. James UCC

March 24th, Palm Sunday Worship -

9am at St. James UCC, 10:30am at St. Mark's UCC

**March 28th, Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion, 7pm,
at St. James UCC**

**March 29th, Good Friday Worship with Communion, 7pm, at
St. Mark's UCC (the wrong location was on the church calendar)**

**March 31st, Easter Sunday Worship with Communion,
9:00am at St. James UCC and 10:30am at St. Mark's UCC**

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