



SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022
St. James/St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz
Pastor

Ann Rodewald
Organist

Kathy Jurk
Choir Director

Meditative Music
Bells Ring Prelude

Gathering for Worship: *How Blest Are They Whose Trespass has been Freely Forgiven*

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: In Jesus Christ, there is a new creation.

P: Everything old has passed away.

L: Everything has become new.

P: This newness is from God, who has reconciled us through Jesus Christ.

L: Rejoice and be glad!

P: Everything has become new.

Opening Prayer:

God of steadfast love and mercy, remind us once again that in Jesus Christ everything has become new. For far too often, things seem as they have always been: old habits die hard, difficult situations linger, failures from our past linger. We look for your promised newness but cannot see it. Speak to us again of your new creation. Open our eyes to its presence in our lives. Call us forth to claim this newness, that we may be healed and made whole. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise: (#190 Hymnal)

O Spirit of the Living God

Young At Heart:



Prayer of Confession: (*Chaplain Patrick McLaughlin, CDR, USN*)

God of all peoples, you created the world. In one breath we became brothers and sisters. You created nations thousands of years old, and nations not yet a decade old. You created America, and people from all over the world – brothers and sisters – have continued to flock to her shores. When blood is spilled it is the blood of your children. When blood is spilled it is the blood of brothers and sisters. When blood is spilled it is the blood of a nation and the blood of the world.

Grant us understanding. Grant us goodwill. Grant us unity. We pray as your children. We pray as a nation. We pray as a world community. We pray in Christ's name.

Words of Assurance:

Steadfast love surrounds those who put their trust in God, for God forgives the guilt of their sin. Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven! Be glad and rejoice in God! *Amen.*

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.

St. Mark's Choir Anthem:

Jesus Leads Me

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 32

Message:

Hidden, Preserved, Surrounded

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Hymn of Assurance: (#7 Hymnal)

Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart (vs. 1, 4, 6)

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:

Calvary Covers It All

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Long-suffering God, we hear the words of pain and suffering, sometimes within our own family, other times in our community, state, and nation. And oftentimes throughout the world. As we bring our gifts this day, we do so in the humble gratitude and recognition that any and all blessings in our life come as your gift of grace to us. Use these gifts to provide healing and peace where others are hurting. *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: (#209 Hymnal)

Depth of Mercy! Can There Be

Benediction:

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. You send us forth with the Holy Spirit guiding our steps and feeding our fires to do good works for your kingdom. Let all that we are, all we will be, and all we will do ~ be to your honor and glory now and always. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Thou Are My Hiding Place

Psalm 32

*Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.*

*Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

*For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.*

*For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah*

*I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;*

*I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah*

*Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.*

*You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah*

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.*

*Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay near you.*

*Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!*