



Sunday, March 6, 2022
Our Church's Wider Mission Sunday
St. Mark's/St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz
Reader: Lori Roelse, Deb LaDuke

Organist: Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn
Choir Director: Cindy Sohn

Meditative Music
Bells Ring Prelude
Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast*
St. James: *Make Me a Captive, Lord*

Call to Worship: [Psalm 25] (responsively)

L: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

P: **O my God, in you I trust;**

L: Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

P: **Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are my God, my life.**

L: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,

P: **Do not remember the sins of my past; remember me for the good within, O Lord!**

Opening Prayer:

God of the baptized, we come to the shores of your presence, reminded that it is here you cleanse us, restore us, and shower upon us grace and mercy. Rain down upon us as you reign over us! May your Spirit rest on us. May we, as one body, experience the blessing and favor of you being pleased with us. Come into this time and space, we pray. In Christ's great name, we pray. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise: (#10 Binder)

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Young At Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. Still, we engage in confession, admitting to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God's love, let us make our confession:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer: For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness; For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us; For the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist; For the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us; We pray for the courage to admit our fault; the strength to amend our ways; and the hope that your grace awaits us. Through Christ we pray.

Words of Assurance:

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God! *Alleluia* and *Amen.*

Hymn of Assurance: (Insert of #456 Pilgrim People)

God of Grace and God of Glory

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. James Choir:

Ancient Words

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 9:8-17

Message:

This is the Sign

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 - *I Surrender All*

St. James - *Ever Faithful, Ever Near*

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Giving God, we thank you and give praise for all your gifts to us. We know that you are the source of every good thing, light and love come from you.

You have created us, and you continue to breathe life into us through the power of Your Holy Spirit. It is because we recognize the gifts you have given to us that we now give to the work of Your kingdom. We now dedicate this offering to the work of Your kingdom here on earth, that your love may be known widely. *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: (#464 Hymnal)

Dwell In Me, O Blessed Spirit

Benediction: (responsively)

Holy God, we thank you for keeping your covenant with us, for you are a God of mercy and steadfast love. We praise you that you do not remember the sins of our youth or our transgressions. By your grace, would you lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation. As when you were in the wilderness for forty days, may we be filled with the Spirit when the enemy leads us into temptation. Protect us and keep us that we would follow you and flee from sin. In the name of Jesus, go now to love and serve our Lord. *Amen.*

Postlude:

St. Mark's - *Living for Jesus*

St. James - *Majestic Postlude*

Genesis 9:8-17 ESV

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."



Website: www.stmstjucc.org email: stmstjoffice@gmail.com
phone: 920.693.8361
Messages are uploaded to YouTube: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

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

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.

This first Sunday is when many people become aware of the Lenten season. If there are rituals to be adopted, they will often begin today. So, we are on the brink again, or still, or even for the first time, of the journey. That’s why we begin with promise; we begin with covenant.

The promise of Genesis 9 is one of relationship and presence. There is a corporate call to the Lenten journey. Bring the whole community together; no excuses are allowed. We are together in this act of rending, of opening ourselves as a whole body to the promise of God. But the promise is singular – that God will be in relationship with us.

There are many promises in the Bible, but best of all, God is with us. The symbol of the rainbow is well known throughout the history of the faith. It is a symbol of gathering the community together under a common faith. The Lenten call is corporate, remember; it is about gathering “all who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”

In fact, our worship could declare not only that “there is the sign” as we point beyond ourselves to the naturally occurring light refracting through the rain and producing an arc of color and light; but that because of that sign and because of that promise, now we are the sign. The church has become the rainbow sign of the presence of God as we seek to gather up the scattered beloved of God into one covenanted community of faith. We are the sign.
(Rev. Dr. Derek Weber)

Prayer: Lord, in the midst of this Lenten season we desperately need a sign of your promise – your covenant. How far seeing of you, to give to us that sign thousands of years ago. The sign of the rainbow to let us know you will be with us forever. And to never again cleanse the earth with flood waters. We are yours. And we claim you, our God. Not to control or manipulate, but to worship only you. *Amen.*



Staying Close, Staying Connected

Celebrating.....

(March snuck up on me, my apologies for missing some of these last week!)

BIRTHDAYS:

March 1st – Eric Grotegut, Katy Grunwald

3rd – Karra Cina, Tracy Steinbeck

4th – James Luckow

6th – Wyatt Henschel

7th – Dale Krause

8th – Jameson Binversie

10th – Lindsay Wippermann, Milton Wippermann

11th – David Grunwald

ANNIVERSARIES:

2nd - Dave & Cindy Call

12th – Tim & Brenda Miota

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, March 13th
One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday

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

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

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TODAY--YOUTH FELLOWSHIP DRIVE THRU CHILI DINNER,
11-2, at St. James.

Carry Outs only!

Quart of Chili \$10; Gallon of Chili \$22

**All carry outs include chili, crackers, fresh bread,
cheese, and a dessert!**

ALSO TODAY....HS YOUTH MEETING, 5:30pm, St. Mark's. Grace is making lasagna for dinner!

ST. JAMES VISION OF HOPE MEETING - Monday, March 7th, 6:30pm

CONFIRMATION CLASS- Wednesday, March 9th at St. James

LENTEN WORSHIP, Wed., March 9th, 7pm at St. James

ST. JAMES STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING - Thurs, March 10th, 6pm

ST. MARK'S CHOIR PRACTICE - Thursday, March 10th, 7pm