



Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist
Kathy Jurk, Choir Director

“How close is your relationship with Jesus? Paul said, “All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death,” and “if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His” (Romans 6:3, 5)

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Call to Worship:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

We gather in this holy place, under your holy name seeking forgiveness and desiring a deeper more meaningful relationship with you.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I will cry out to you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will cry out in praise of your name. Holy are you!

The LORD is gracious and merciful,

Every day I will give thanks that you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The LORD is good to all,

Thanks be to God.

Prayer:

O Lord, you call your straying people to return to you in repentance and contrition, and you graciously have promised forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Grant that, forgiven and free, we may live each day in joyful hope as your well-loved children; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Song of Assurance: (#250)

Through These Lenten Days and Nights (vs 1, 6)

Imposition of Ashes:

Sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a *faithful* heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our heavenly Father, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and standing strong in sincerity and truth.

Silence for reflection

O God, we implore you to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises you have laid up for those who are repentant; through Christ Jesus, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[Please come to the front for the imposition of the ashes. All are welcome ❤️]

Choral Anthem:

Remember Me

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 41:1-13 ESV

*Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;
the LORD protects him and keeps him alive;
he is called blessed in the land;
you do not give him up to the will of his enemies...*

Message:

MUTUAL CONSIDERATION

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Sacrament of Holy Communion:

Choral Anthem:

Jesus the Christ Says

Blessed are you, Lord God of heaven and earth, for you have mercy on those whom you created. You sent your only-begotten Son born to the flesh and blood of humanity to bear our sin and be our Savior. Deeply repentant and with great joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the sacrificial lamb – His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg you, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat his body and drink his blood as he bids us to do in his own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in his kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

On the night when he was betrayed, he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink of this, in remembrance of Me."

Lord Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us your body and blood to eat and to drink, you call us to remember and confess you died on the cross for us. Your holy cross and passion, your blessed death, your rest in the tomb, your resurrection from the dead, your ascension into heaven, and your coming for the final judgment. Remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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:

I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Almighty and gracious God, we pray for your blessing today. As we give to you our tithes and offerings, we ask that you bless us in return. Cause the windows of heaven to open and pour out showers of blessings as you promised. Bless our jobs and businesses with prosperity so that we may keep earning money to support not only our families but your kingdom's work. O God, bless us that we may be blessings to others. Fulfill your Word in our lives today. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending: (#265)

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Benediction:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give to you peace of mind and heart. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed?

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