



**“For God sent not his Son into the world
to condemn the world; but that the world
through him might be saved.”**

John 3:17 (KJV)

King James Bible Online .org

Sunday, January 21, 2024
St. Mark's and St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist
Lori Roelse, Reader

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship:
St. Mark's:
St. James:

Fantasia on "Duke Street"
Immortal, Invisible

Call to Worship:

Today we come joyfully before the Lord!

God knows us and loves us!

Today we come prayerfully before the Lord!

God sees our concerns, our fears, our sins and messes!

Today we come hopefully before the Lord!

Jesus has proclaimed God's love and forgiveness for all God's children!

Know, with all your being, that God absolutely loves you!

How precious and assuring that knowledge is! Thanks be to God!

Prayer:

Awesome God, you knew us before we were born. You love us into life. Open our hearts to you today. Open our ears to hear your message for us. And, upon hearing your message may we be convinced of your call unto us. Bless us with your presence and your powerful love, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

Hymn:

St. Mark's (#424)

St. James (#1)

How Can I Keep From Singing?

Holy, Holy, Holy

Affirmation of Faith: (Nicene Creed)

We believe in one God,

the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

begotten from the Father before all ages,

God from God,

Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made;

of the same essence as the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;

he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,

and was made human.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried.

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. *Amen.*

Young at Heart:



Hymn:

St. Mark's (#443)
St. James (#253)

*Trust and Obey
Take My Life and Let It Be*

Scripture Reading:

John 3:17; Matthew 7:24-29 ESV

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Message:

Messy Church – Nobody's Perfect

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:

O Word of God Incarnate

St. James:

Abiding Love

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

God of justice, mercy, and compassion; we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar and pray they will be used to make your amazing love known to all. Help us open our lives and our minds to the possibility that we might be the ones you would call and send. We pray this in the name of Christ, our teacher and our redeemer. *Amen.*

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:

St. Mark's (#449)

Day by Day

St. James (#467)

I Love to Tell the Story

Benediction:

May the Perfect One continue to watch over you and the Holy Spirit fill you as you lean into each day. Strive to know him more fully and more deeply. And may you be reassured in and through his presence and blessed to be a blessing to those around you. Go now...

Postlude:

St. Mark's:

Trumpet Tune In F

St. James:

Joyful

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.



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*January 21st - Scott Henschel, Williem Langenhahn
23rd - Jason Bramstedt, Ray Brickner
24th - Henry Langenhahn, Jr.
25th - Gavin Marcoe*

ANNIVERSARY:

None this Week.

TODAY: ST. JAMES ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

HS YOUTH MEETING TODAY - at 5:30pm at St. James

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24TH. Email them to Karen at: stmstjoffice@gmail.com or drop off in the secretary office at St. Mark's.

ST. JAMES CHOIR REHEARSAL - Wednesday, January 24th, 6:30pm

HS YOUTH RETREAT at Daycholach Center, Jan. 26th -28th. See Brenda Schultz for more details

INSTALLATION OF CONSISTORY MEMBERS - Next week Sunday during the Worship Service at both churches.



Quilting
is sew
much fun!

The quilting group will meet
Tuesday, January 23,
10:00am to noon.
New members are welcome 😊

UCC RURAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Presents

SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT



Where: Bethlehem United Church of Christ
11608 Lax Chapel Road
Kiel WI 53042

When: Sunday, February 18, 2024, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Doors open at 12:30

Entrance Fee: Canned goods and/or free will offering

Rules will be explained before the tournament begins. All levels of skill are welcome. Beginner's table(s) will be available for those who don't know how to play. Don't want to play sheepshead but want to participate in the fun? Bring your own board or card game.

Refreshments will be available.

COME ONE...COME ALL!

Child care will be supplied. Games and movies for the kiddos.



TOURNAMENT!

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

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

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.

Additional Readings: Matthew 5-7 (Sermon on the Mount)

I have a great ongoing discussion with church and religion as the main topic. Are they one and the same? And for that matter is being a Christian the same as being affiliated with church (or a church) and/or religion in general?

Central to the discussions is people or person(s) sometimes adversely effecting one's perception of church. In other words, someone or some people say, don't say, do, don't do... something that just turns you off from going to church and makes you question, not so much your faith in Jesus, but your faith in church.

The reality is that church is made up of messy people. We are a messy church. We aren't filled with perfect people. We are filled with imperfect people. Of whom, many are striving to become perfect in Christ through salvific grace (or God's saving grace). It is popular, and not untrue, to say that the church is the institution of Christ, given by Christ. But, it's not a perfect institution. How can it be? It's made up of imperfect people like you and me. And we lean on this institution as our true stability, security and hope. There is none other like it.

We must, too, recognize that today's church must look different than yesterday's. To find new ways of connecting, remaining relevant, teaching and serving, while never losing our foundation of biblical relevance and Creedal guidance is vital to being the church for all people. So, we lean on Jesus and the Holy Spirit to guide and shape us now and always.

Prayer: Blessed Lord, Savior and Redeemer, we are yours now and always. Use us as you see fit to shape the world according to your will. *Amen*

NOTES

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