



SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022

St. Mark's/St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Organist: Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn

Reader: Sandy Perronne

Meditative Music

Bells Ring Prelude

Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: *Never Shall the Cross Forsake Me*

St. James: *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

P: Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!

L: Come and let us worship with great joy!

P: Let us drop the things of the past which weighed us down!

L: God is about to do something new in our lives!

P: Let God's will become strong in our lives.

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, how lavishly you pour out the costly gift of your grace upon us. Fill our homes and our lives with the fragrance of your love, so that we may show your glory and serve your people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise: (#462 Hymnal)

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

Young At Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

Lord God, how extravagant your love for us is! You continually pour upon us blessing upon blessing ~ in the lives of people near and dear to us, in the beauty of creation, in the skills and abilities you have given to us. There is so much for which we are thankful. Yet in the midst of this thankfulness, there lies the demons of demand and confusion. We want you to be in control of taking care of all the things that threaten us. We want you to prevent us from facing times of confusion and doubt. And we want to have a more complete faith. Like Judas, who misunderstood Jesus' intention, we wonder about the anointing of Jesus - about the perceived waste of materials. How hard it is for us to see that we need to take some time to honor and praise Christ instead of continually asking for Christ to do things for us. We have a lot to learn. Lord, teach us! Open our hard hearts to the healing words you have for us. Give us patience and persistence in our service to you. And when we stumble and thrash around faithlessly, bring us back to your presence; that we may find healing and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. *Amen.*

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.*

Choir Anthem:

Celtic Kyrie

Flutist: Laurie Heckmann; Choir Director: Cindy Sohn

Scripture Reading:

John 12:1-8

Message:

Filled With The Fragrance

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Hymn of Assurance: (#471 Hymnal) *More Love To Thee, O Christ (vs. 1, 2, 4)*

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: *Prayer of Penitence*

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

St. James: *I Lay My Sins on Jesus*

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Loving God, you give and give, and didn't think the life of your son was too high a price to pay for our salvation. Jesus' life was an example of sacrificial giving, all the way to the cross. As we give this day, we want our gifts to impact the world, but even more, we want them to bring glory to Christ, who lived and died for all your children. Help us to not hold back anything. We pray in the name of your son, our savior and redeemer, *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: (#467 Hymnal)

I Love to Tell the Story

Benediction: *Irish Blessing*

May the road rise to meet you; May the wind blow at your back,
May the sunshine shine warmly on your face; May the rain fall softly on your fields;
And until we meet again, until we meet again;
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.
Go now to love and serve our Lord in all you do, all you are and all you will be.

Postlude:

St. Mark's: *Postlude in G Minor*

St. James: *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

John 12:1-8 ESV

Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

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