



Wednesday, March 13, 2024
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:

Were You There?

Call to Worship: (Psalm 145)

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your saints shall bless you!

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,
**to make known to the children of God your mighty deeds, and the glorious
splendor of your kingdom.**

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout
all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.

Holy Ground (#654)

We are standing

On Holy Ground,

And I know that there are angels

All around.

Let us praise Jesus now;

We are standing in his presence

On Holy Ground.

Prayer:

Gracious and Merciful Lord Jesus, grant us your gentleness and forbearance, your compassion and love, and your tenderheartedness, that filled with your grace we may always find fitting and sincere words to speak and willingly forgive the wrongs and evils done us. This we ask in your precious and mighty name. Amen.

Hymn: (#443)

Trust and Obey

New Testament Reading:

James 3:1-10

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

Choral Anthem:

Rock of Ages

Affirmation of 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.*

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 41:6

*And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words,
while his heart gathers iniquity;
when he goes out, he tells it abroad.*

Message:

Empty Words

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Hymn: (#426)

Blessed Assurance

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.*

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:

**By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your holy nativity;
By your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by your agony and bloody sweat; by your cross and passion; by your precious death and burial, resurrection and ascension
bless these offerings made from the generosity of our hearts. May the be for you
an offering to continue the building of your Kingdom here on earth. *Amen.***

Hymn of Sending: (#716)

God Be With You

Benediction:

I thank you, our heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept us this day; and I pray that you would forgive us our sins where we have done wrong, and graciously keep us this night. Into your hands I commend this body of Christ, heart and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with us, that the evil foe may have no power over us. Go now to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, all that you are and all you will be. ***Amen.***

Postlude:

Postlude in E minor

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

Lenten Services:

March 20th, 7pm, at St. James UCC

**March 24th, Palm Sunday Worship -
9am at St. James UCC, 10:30am at St. Mark's UCC**

**March 28th, Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion, 7pm,
at St. James UCC**

**March 29th, Good Friday Worship with Communion, 7pm, at
St. Mark's UCC (the wrong location was on the church calendar)**

**March 31st, Easter Sunday Worship with Communion,
9:00am at St. James UCC and 10:30am at St. Mark's UCC**