



Wednesday, March 20, 2024
St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Randy Sohn, Organist
Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

Call to Worship:

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

O Lord, open my eyes,
and I will see the glory of your works.

O Lord, open my ears,
and I will hear your Word.

O Lord, open my heart,
and I will welcome you in.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

Prayer:

O God who gives strength to the weak and light to those who are in darkness, grant us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that through Him we may know You more completely. Assure us that all things are made to work for our good through our Savior, Jesus Christ, so that we may with hopeful hearts await the glory of His kingdom of eternal grace. With boldness and confidence, we ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Hymn: (#207)

Jesus Calls Us

New Testament Reading:

Matthew 26:1-5

When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

Choral Anthem:

Come As You Are

Affirmation of Faith: (Statement of Faith)

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 41:7-8 ESV

*All who hate me whisper together about me;
they imagine the worst for me.
They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him;
he will not rise again from where he lies."*

Message:

Vindication

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Hymn: (#221)

My Faith Looks Up To Thee

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:

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

O Holy One, thank you that you give the gift of abundant, eternal life. Your generosity overflows to us. Everything we have is a gift from you. As we bring our offerings to you, we give back to you from your abundant blessings. May our gifts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our God. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, and power and strength, be unto you our God forever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, *Amen*.

Hymn of Sending: (#281)

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Benediction:

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, gives to us a peace which the world cannot. May our hearts be set to follow your commandments. May we glorify and honor you now and always. May we live in peace and quietness as we go to love and serve the Lord, in all that we do, all that we are, and all that we will be. *Amen*.

Postlude:

Gentle Spirit

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.

Holy Week Services:

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


March 29th, Good Friday Worship with Communion, 7pm, at St. Mark's

March 31st, Easter Sunday Worship with Communion,

9:00am at St. James UCC and 10:30am at St. Mark's UCC

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