



**I WILL
PUT MY
SPIRIT
INSIDE YOU,
AND YOU
WILL
COME TO LIFE...**

5th Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 26, 2023

St. James / 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

Call To Worship:

Welcome Children of God

We are learning to follow Jesus, to deepen our understanding of him.

The journey is long, and the burden of our sins and struggles feels so heavy.

Yet we hope in God because with God, there is steadfast love.

All around us, we witness neighbors and communities who are lifeless in Spirit and despairing of life.

Yet God tells us that to come back to life, we must come together.

Untold change and struggle have taken their toll—we are parched and tired.

Yet God meets the lifeless with the breath of life, reviving us again to worship and follow God's way.

Come Children of God, come let us worship and praise our Lord!

We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out!

Prayer:

God of Promise, in the glory of the cross your Son embraced the power of death and broke its hold over your people. In this time of repentance, draw us to yourself, that we who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior may put aside the deeds of death, cast away all sin, and accept the life of your kingdom. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise:

St. James: (#188)

St. Mark's: (#109)



*Holy Spirit, Truth Divine
O, How I Love Jesus*

Young at Heart:

St. James 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.*

St. Mark's New Members:

Mike and Roxi Bernhardt

Prayer of Confession:

Sisters and brothers, as Jesus, in the days before his passion, offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears, let us pray for those who suffer, those who are in need, and those who seek reconciliation.

God of compassion, you know our faults and yet you promised to forgive. Keep us in your presence and give us your wisdom. Open our hearts to gladness, call dry bones to dance, and restore to us the joy of your salvation.

God of the living, through baptism we pass from the shadow of death to the light of the resurrection. Remain with us and give us hope that, rejoicing in the gift of the Spirit who gives life to our mortal flesh, we may be clothed with the garment of immortality, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Brief period of silence

Words of Assurance:

God of all consolation and compassion, your Son comforted the grieving sisters, Martha and Mary; your breath alone brings life to dry bones and weary souls. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may face despair and death with the hope of resurrection and faith in the One who called Lazarus forth from the grave. Amen.

St. James: (#199)

O Word Of God, Incarnate

St. Mark's Choral Anthem:

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. May I be removed as an impediment from your Word of truth and glory.

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Message:

I Don't Know but Lord God, You Know

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

St. James: (#262)

Teach Me, O Lord

St. Mark's: (#461)

Breathe On Me, Breath of God

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

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Almighty and restoring God, we have been living through some difficult days, as churches and individuals. We experience days when we rise, wondering if we will make it through, whether the church will survive for another generation; and we feel like those dry bones in the valley. As we offer our tithes and offerings, help us to hear the word of hope the prophet shares, not just with our ears but with our hearts. May it call us back to life and service, out of the graves of despair in which we have buried ourselves. In Christ's holy name. Amen.

Prayer of the People and the 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 and ever. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending:

St. James: (#221)

St. Mark's: (#257)

*My Faith Looks Up To Thee
What Wondrous Love Is This*

Benediction:

... Go to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, in all that you are, and in all that you will be.

Postlude

Ezekiel 37:1-14 ESV *The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."*

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

Services recorded & 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