

January 10, 2021  
St. James United Church of Christ  
St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz  
Pastor  
Organist

Randy Sohn

Prelude Music  
*Here I Am, Lord*  
Gathering in Readiness for Worship

**Opening Prayer of Worship:**

O God, our light and our salvation, shelter us in your love.  
O God, our stronghold, protect us from danger.  
We come with shouts of joy to worship you this day.  
We come with song and music to celebrate your love.  
We come with longing to seek your presence.  
Be with us now, O God, as we sing your praises. *Amen.*

**Prayer of Confession:**

God of light, we live in the darkness of despair: worried about our lives, concerned for our health, fearful that we are lost from you. The yoke of our burdens lies heavy upon us: our unwillingness to forgive, our fears of one another, our reluctance to share what we have, our divisions and quarrels. We long to turn from the dark and live in the light. We yearn to leave what is evil and follow the paths of righteousness. Shine the light of your love upon us and transform us with your love, that your promised realm may draw near. *Amen.*

**Song of Assurance:**

*Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult*

**Scripture Reading:  
Message:**

*Matthew 9:9-13*  
*Matthew Follows Jesus ~ This is the Way*  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

**Praising God in Music:**

*Father, We Praise Thee*  
*Evening and Morning*

**A Time of Prayer and Silent Reflection**

**Offering**

Offering, Tithes and Gifts can be made on-line through our website (St. James Only), or by mailing your offering to:  
St. James UCC, 13312 Pioneer Road, Newton, WI 53063 **OR**  
St. Mark's UCC, W1307 Orchard Road, Cleveland, WI 53015

**Offertory Music**

*O Lord of Heaven and Earth and Sea*

***Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (all together)***

God of redemption and new life, we focus once more this day on the greatest gift ever given – Jesus, our Savior. As he was baptized by John in the Jordan, we were able to share in his baptism and receive the promise of sharing in Jesus' resurrection. As we leave a painful year behind and look with hope to the new year ahead, help us to live and give of ourselves as those who know every day what a great gift we have been given. May it move us to give our whole selves more freely! In the name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray! Amen.

**A Sending Forth Song**

*The First Noel*

**Benediction**

Jesus, the light of the world, calls us to follow.  
Go and tell the news of God's love.  
Cast the nets of grace wide,  
that all may see the glory of God.  
Go forth and shine with God's light!  
May God – Source, Word, and Spirit –  
bless you with the radiance of love. Amen.

**Postlude**

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**This Week We Celebrate:**

*Birthdays: January 11<sup>th</sup> – Azalea Heling*  
*12<sup>th</sup> – Margene Reyer*  
*14<sup>th</sup> – Brenda Miota, Tim Schueler*  
*16<sup>th</sup> – Andy Schnelle, Warren Vandoske*

*Anniversaries: Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> – Kevin & Betty Kellner*  
*14<sup>th</sup> – Gary & Sheri Kaestner*



*Scripture from today printed on the next page of the bulletin.....*

*Matthew 9:9-13 (NRSV)*

*As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.*

*And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."*

