

January 17, 2021
St. James United Church of Christ
St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz
Pastor

Kathy Jurk
Organist

Prelude Music
Gathering in Readiness for Worship

Majesty, Worship His Majesty

Opening Prayer of Worship:

Awesome God, you knew us before we were born. You loved us into life. Open our hearts and our spirits today to hear your word for us. And, upon hearing the word, may we be convicted in our hearts, through our faith and your grace, to love and serve our Lord.

May our words ~ of the Good News of Jesus Christ;

And actions ~ done in ministry and mission;

Our very thoughts and intentions ~ be placed before you in judgement
~ as it reflects your call upon our lives.

Bless us with your presence and your powerful love, we ask in Jesus' Name. *Amen*

Prayer of Confession:

Lord, somewhere long ago, someone convinced us that we would not be good material for God to use in healing and helping ministries for this world. We don't really believe that we have anything worthwhile to offer. It can be relatively easy to give financially for missions and good works, but we do not see ourselves worthy of further involvement.

Remind us of your forgiving love, when we stubbornly refuse to believe your claim on our lives. Open our eyes and heart to see the gifts with which you have blessed us, and to commit those gifts to serving you by serving others. We know everything starts with prayer. So, patient God, bear with us as we settle down to pray, asking for your wisdom in our lives. Give us courage and strength to attend any task you set before us. And give us hearts of grateful love to acknowledge your presence in our lives and live that presence with great joy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. *Amen*.

Words of Assurance:

From the very beginning, God has blessed you and planted within your spirit the words "I can do all things through God who strengthens me." Do not fear the task God sets before you. Rejoice, for God is with you every moment and God's love washes over you always, healing and nourishing your life.

Song of Assurance:

Amazing Grace

Scripture Reading:
Message:

Hebrews 12:1-2
Race - Sprint - Marathon
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Praising God in Music:

I Need Thee Every Hour
Gather Us In

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

We Give Thee But Thine Own

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (all together)

Giving is not a casual act—it relates God's work to our work. Peter wrote: "*as each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace, that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.*"

Let us give as people whose work is intertwined with God's great works of creation, redemption and empowerment. Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with words only, but with our whole lives. Bless these gifts, and offerings, and tithes that they may be multiplied to serve in ministry and mission within this church, throughout this community, and beyond. *Amen*.

A Sending Forth Song

Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

Benediction

Go into God's world, aware of God's call in your life. Follow our Lord Jesus Christ who will lead you in paths of service and hope. Lean on the power of the Holy Spirit to give you courage and strength. May peace, joy and love flow through you to others, in God's name. *Amen*.

Postlude

This Week We Celebrate:

Birthdays: Jan. 17 - Andrew Nye; 18 - Hailey Hermann, Dorothy Schnell;
20 - Dawn Marcoe; 21 - Scott Henschel, Williem Langenhahn;
23 - Ray Brickner, Jason Bramstedt

Check the next page for Annual Meeting Announcement & the Scripture....

The Annual Meetings for both churches will be held virtually this year. Watch for your Annual Reports mailing. There is a ballot that needs to be returned to your church by Feb. 5th in the self-addressed stamped envelope.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NRSV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

