

January 3, 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
Ringing of the Bells

Behold Us Lord

Call to Worship

King of all the earth, Creator of the universe, Holy Triune God, from everlasting to everlasting, you are Lord. Your law brings life, O Lord, and we pray over this day and night. Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord; You are a rich stream of living waters, and we would immerse ourselves in you.

Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord; You bring forth fruit in due season and establish the work of our hands. Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord; For who is like our God, the One whose ways are full of life? Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.

This is our God, the Holy One. We come before him with thanksgiving and offer him the sacrifice of praise. *Amen.*

Opening Prayer (all together)

We gather around; and we welcome the guests; today we will hear Good News. In a time and a world where so much is filled with fraught and angry voices; the God of encouragement will speak to you today. The Son of God; Jesus the Christ; Emmanuel – God with us, will speak to you today. Come, sit and rest O wearied traveler. Let your tiredness fall away. Lift up your hearts and listen. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Doxology:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praising God in Music

*When the Weary Seeking Rest
Dear Shepherd of Thy People*

Prayer of Confession:

God of heaven and earth, you see all things. You know the depths of our hearts better than we can know ourselves. You know the great heights to which we aspire and the depth of our failures when we fall short of doing what we know is right. We ask for your mercy and forgiveness for our selfishness and fears. Help us to walk as the faithful representatives you call us to be. Create in us the grace of Christ toward those with whom we disagree, just as he extended it to those who conspired against him. *Amen.*

Song of Assurance:

Blessed Assurance

Scripture Reading:

Daniel 9:3-7, 18

Message:

Pray ~ This is the Way

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

A Time of Prayer and Silent Reflection

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest; Lay down, thou weary one, lay down Thy head upon my breast." I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad; I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad." *Amen.*

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

Take My Life and Let It Be

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (all together)

Glorious God, source of joy and righteousness, light and love, enable us as your forgiven children to rejoice in mind, heart and voice. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives; so that we are doers of the Word and not hearers only. Bless these offerings so generously given that they may be used to build your Kingdom through the people of your church and beyond. It is through Jesus Christ's loving name we pray. Amen.

A Sending Forth Song

The First Noel

Benediction (Isaiah 2:1-5)

Growing God, we have known your presence. We have lived in your love. Show us your glory. Reveal your glory in us. We will carry your glory from here to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let your Holy Spirit be our guiding light, our power and sustenance. We go now to love and serve our Lord. Bless us and may your will be done. *Amen.*

Postlude

Daniel 9: 3-7, 18

So I turned to the LORD God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "LORD, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land. LORD, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame-the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you.

Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.

This Week We Celebrate:

*Birthdays: January 3 Karen Krause
5 Terri Grunwald
7 Jim Becker, Corey Vandoske
9 Scott Siekman*

No Anniversaries this upcoming week

**ITEMS FOR THE CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT ARE DUE TOMORROW,
MONDAY, JANUARY 4TH.**