

January 31, 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

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

**Opening Prayer of Worship ~ It is the cry of my heart:**

L: From the pillar of fire and cloud of smoke, God led the people.

**P: Praise be to God!**

L: Through the voices of the prophet, God proclaimed the way to live.

**P: Praise be to God!**

L: Through the power and witness of Jesus Christ, God offered us new life.

**P: Praise be to God!**

L: Thanks be to God who has showered us with blessing upon blessing!

**P: Praise be to God!**

**Prayer:**

Open our hearts and spirits this day to hear the great good news of your power and presence with all your people. Fill our hearts with rejoicing as the words are proclaimed in song and story. Enliven us and remind us that you are with us, through the pillar of fire, through the magnificent words of the prophets, through the ministry and love of Jesus Christ. *Amen*

**Song of Prayer:**

*Dear Shepherd of Thy People Hear*

**Prayer of Confession:**

Lord and Savior, we presume to know so much. In our presumption, with our meager knowledge, we tend to judge others.

We are at times arrogant with our own righteousness, yet without compassion to others. There have been so many times in which our humble help would have been a blessing to someone, but we placed our comforts before serving others. In our selfishness we seek what we want and proclaim it a need. Help us, merciful God, to again listen to you. Help us to truly open our hearts to you. Remind us again of your great love and presence in our lives. Forgive us our foolishness and our stubbornness. Create in us new spirits, filled with your love, offering peace and hope to all. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

**Words of Assurance:**

Quiet your hearts, beloved of God, for God is speaking to you with love. Rest your spirits, struggling ones, for God will surround you with peace. Open your lives to God's power and presence and do not be afraid. God is with us, now and for all time. Amen.

**Song of Assurance:**

*Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

**Scripture Reading:**

John 4:3-29

**Message:**

*[Beginnings] Who is Jesus and Why Should I Care?*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

**Praising God in Music:**

*Open My Eyes That I May See  
New Beginnings*

**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**

*Take Thou Our Minds*

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

Creator and giver of all life, guide us to put first things first in our lives. Enable us to follow the example Jesus has set before us. May the Holy Spirit shine light upon our choices that they maybe a reflection of our will to be disciples in Christ. Bless these offerings, gifts and tithes that they may be used to further your kingdom, now and always. *Amen*.

**A Sending Forth Song**

*Jesus, Lover of my Soul*

**Benediction**

Jesus comes to us, offering healing and hope, speaking and acting with authority. Listen to him. Go into this world, confident in God's love, forgiveness and healing power. Go in peace to love and serve our Lord. Take this blessing with you that you may bless others. *Amen*.

**Postlude**

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**This Week We Celebrate:**

*Birthdays: February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Kathryn Jaehnig, 4<sup>th</sup> - Mark Jurk, 5<sup>th</sup> - Judy Steinbeck,  
5<sup>th</sup> - Mary Ann Vogel, 6<sup>th</sup> - Jeff Meyer, Jill Schuette \* No Anniversaries This Week*

### **John 3:1-10 (NRSV)**

*So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.*

*Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.*

*When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)*

*The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans)*

*Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."*

*"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"*

*Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

*The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."*

*He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."  
"I have no husband," she replied.*

*Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."*

*"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."*

*"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."*

*The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."*

*Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."*

*Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"*

*Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"*

