



**Sunday, January 8, 2023**  
**St. James/St. Mark's United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz Pastor  
Ann Rodewald, Organist      Scott Siekman, Reader

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

*Abide, O Dearest Jesus*

**Call To Worship:**

L: Behold the Lord, the Ruler over all things, has come among us;

**P: And the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hands.**

L: Let the King of Kings hold judgement over us;

**P: And may your mercy reign over us as we seek righteous living unto our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Hymn of Praise: (#215 Worship & Rejoice- Insert)**

*Were You There on That Christmas Night*

**Prayer Time Together: (Matt 3:13-17, Mk 1:9-13, Lk 3:21-22)**

**In the waters of baptism, we were made God's children  
and called to serve one another as we have been served by Christ.  
Therefore, let us pray for one another and for all people  
who will not or cannot pray for themselves.**

Dear heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise that in your mercy you brought us to baptism, and there gave us Jesus' holiness in exchange for our sin and impurity. Thank you for our parents who brought us up in the faith and to baptism, thank you for those other people whom you used to bring us the gospel, and thank you for our pastors, teachers, and leaders in the faith.

**Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.**

We pray for the baptized people of God, that we may hang on to your promises in true faith, especially when we experience the wilderness of sin and evil within, and temptations and trials from outside. Strengthen us with your Holy Spirit so that Jesus' victory may be our victory.

**Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.**

We pray for all people, that the good news of Christ will be proclaimed and heard by all people, and that many will believe and be baptized. To this end, send and support pastors, missionaries, teachers, and lay people able to give truthful and loving witness to Christ.

**Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.**

Have mercy on those in need, those who are struggling because of domestic violence and break-down, those who are suffering from harmful behavior and hurting relationships. Heal, restore, and renew dear Lord.

**Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, those who are disabled, those in hospital, those facing death. Show them the light of the gospel, provide helpers and carers; medical resources and those with the Good News of peace and hope. Heal both body and soul. Be with those among us who are sick, recovering, depressed, feeling alone, ashamed or unable. For the others whom we name in our hearts... *(brief silence)*

**Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you have shown us your love and salvation in the baptism of your Son. Accept these prayers of your children in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Young at Heart:



Hymn of Praise:

*Twasi in the Moon of Wintertime*

**Apostles' Creed:**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty and in Christ Jesus his Son, who was born of Mary the Virgin, was crucified under Pontius Pilate and buried, on the third day rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, sitteth on the right hand of the Father, from whence he cometh to judge the living and dead; and in Holy Spirit, resurrection of flesh.**

**Scripture Reading:**

Matthew 3:13-17

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

**Message:**

*Come on In; the Water's Fine*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

**Hymn of Response:** (117 hymnal-Insert)

*O Thou Joyful*

**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](http://stmstjucc.org)).

**Offertory Music:**

*In God, My Faithful God*

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

**God of the water that cleanses us, the land that feeds us, and the air that allows us to breathe your Spirit in and out of us; you claim us in our baptism, but too few of us even remember our own baptism. And if we remember (or imagine) our baptism, we too rarely grasp its meaning and power. As we present our tithes and offering in worship and witness Christ's baptism once again, may we remember that in that water we were, like Christ, commissioned to go: to teach, preach, heal, and even to take up a cross. In Christ, we pray. 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. *Amen.*

## Hymn of Sending:

St. James (#126)

St. Mark's (#231 *Worship & Rejoice*)

*Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

## Benediction:

Greet yourself as God's beloved. Greet one another as God's beloved. Greet all you encounter as God's beloved. In that greeting, we will be, and we will become the Body of Christ. In that greeting, we will behold the image of God, ever among us and around. Go to love and serve the Lord in all you do, in all you are, and all you will be. In the blessed name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## Postlude:

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

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Check out our Website: [www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org)

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)

