



Sunday January 9, 2022
St. James United Church of Christ
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Readers: Scott Siekman
Organist: Ann Rodewald

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Fairest Lord Jesus

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: We come this day, Precious God, as people in need of your steadfast love:

P: with you is the fountain of life; in your Light we see light.

L: We gather this day, Water-changing God, as people looking for signs:

P: with you is the fountain of life; in your Light we see light

L: We worship this day, Gifting God, as people who confess Jesus as our Lord:

P: with you is the fountain of life; in your Light we see light.

Opening Prayer: *(inspired by John 3)*

We praise you loving and eternal God for your love of all people expressed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for his commitment to justice, his zeal for true worship of you and his willingness to replace all other sacrifices with the sacrifice of his own life. In his name we offer you our worship. *Amen.*

**Hymn of Praise (#12 Hymnal)
of the Earth**

For the Beauty

Young At Heart

Prayer of Confession:

Lord, we need a miracle today. Like Jesus changing water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana, we need a miracle today. We are tired, Lord, of the hurts of this world. We are discouraged in the face of injustice, war, poverty, and indifference. We need a miracle today, Lord. Your steadfast love, like a mighty mountain, will not be moved. Your gifts, as many as the mighty winds, cannot be counted. Your glory, like a mighty torch, will not be put out. Lord, crown us with your love. Show us your glory, that in you we may be moved to acts of kindness, love, justice, and mercy. Lord, we need a miracle today. Amen.

Hymn of Assurance (on screen)

My Savior

Scripture Reading:

John 2:1-11

Message:

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Affirmation of our Faith: *Apostle's Creed (Binder, pg. 1)*

Hymn of Faith: (#404 Hymnal)

O God of Love

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).

Offertory Music:
Was When

Love

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

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 our words only, but with our whole lives. *Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Benediction:

May the strength of God sustain us; may the power of God preserve us; may the hands of God protect us; may the way of

God direct us; may the love of God go with us this day and forever. *Amen*

Hymn of Sending (#324 Hymnal) *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

Postlude *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Website: www.stmstjucc.org **email:**
stmstjoffice@gmail.com
phone: 920-693-8361

Send an email to be added to our prayer chain.

Messages are uploaded to YouTube: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

John 2: 1-11 On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

**Grow – deeper in our faith and relationship with God.
Pray – pray daily for family, neighbors, and others.
Study – read the Bible, pray over what we read, ask questions.**

Additional Text: Judges 14:12, Matt. 25:1, Mark 2:18-20

Following a public betrothal (engagement) the family would announce the wedding date, and elaborate preparations were made for a celebration that could last a week! Gift giving was carefully considered, not as a simple goodwill gesture, but as a means of bringing honor to the couple and their families. To not follow tradition had legal ramifications, as it brought shame upon the couple.

Hence, when the host ran out of wine, the servants were very concerned. The wedding party did not serve grape juice, but wine. That Jesus was present was a testament to his ministry. When Jesus was asked why he and his disciples did not fast, his response was that his presence should inspire celebration not asceticism.

There are a number of ways to view this story. One viewpoint John wants us to reflect on is: this miracle in Cana is less important than the implication of Jesus' arrival, now, in the setting of Judaism.

John is making a statement that Judaism is to see and hear. The Messiah has arrived, and the messianic banquet (seen as a wedding feast) has begun.

Prayer: O what a joy to celebrate your coming, Lord Jesus. It's like a party that never ceases. Sure, there are many daily "puffs of wind" threatening to blow out the candles, but your presence with us is a reminder the light never goes out and the darkness need never overwhelm us. *Amen.*
men

Notes:



Birthdays:

January 9th – Scott Siekman

11th – Azalea Heling

12th – Margene Reyer

14th – Brenda Miota, Tim Schueler

Anniversaries:

January 10th – Kevin & Betty Kellner

14th – Gary & Sheri Kaestner

*If you or a family member are in need of pastoral care,
please contact Pastor Patrick at 920-693-2858 or leave a
message on the church's answering machine at: 920-693-8361*

ST. MARK'S MEMBERS ~ Be sure to sign up on the Greeter sign up sheet in the back of church.



LOOKING AHEAD

NEXT SUNDAY, January 16th ...

***St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship
Sunday School 9:00 to 10:00am***

***St. James: 10:30am Worship,
Annual Meeting following shortened Service
Sunday School 9:00 to 10:00am***

Wednesday January 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday January 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday January 16 at 5:30 p.m. at St. James

Confirmation

Bible Study

High School Youth Group

ST. MARK'S ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TOMORROW, MONDAY, JANUARY 10th.

Email them to stmstjoffice@gmail.com

To avoid missing some important (timely) church information, it would be good to get in the habit once or twice a week to check both the Spam & Notifications folders in your email.....-Karen