

Sunday, October 30, 2022 St. James/St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Ann Rodewald, Organist

Meditative Music Bells Ring Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Call to Worship:

L: God, I heard you call my name; Calling for me to leave this place of death, of stench and sadness to enter a world of fresh air and light and laughter.

P: But I was afraid to answer, afraid that my answer would offend those who had never known this kind of death, afraid of being chased back into this very tomb afraid of only tasting life briefly before being forced back to the grit and grind of this living death that has become my dreaded existence.

L: But you haven't stopped calling my name. You haven't stopped calling me by the nickname that my family used back in the days when I did not know pain, or fear or want; you haven't stopped calling for me like you care about me.

P: God, if I come out of here this time, please let it be okay.

Unison Prayer:

God, your testimonies are true. Ezekiel's graveyard, Lazarus' tomb, and the empty tomb are reminders that you are the Lord of Life; that not even death can stop your purposes. So, today, God, we ask that you prepare our hearts for resurrection as we sit in the graveyard, waiting to feel the wind and hear you call us forth by name. Amen.

Hymn of Praise:

St. James (#282 Hymnal) St. Mark's (#531 Worship & Rejoice) Faith of Our Fathers Rejoice in God's Saints

Young at Heart:



The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried:

He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:

I believe in the Holy Spirit: The One Holy Universal Christian Church: the communion of saints: The forgiveness of sins: The resurrection of the body: And the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Scripture Reading: John 11:38-44

Message: All Hallows Eve Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Hymn of Response: On Eagle's Wings

St. James (Bulletin Back) St. Mark's (#438 Worship & Rejoice)

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:

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

O Lord, you are the mighty One who commands the armies of heaven! Yet you know and care for the poor and grieving. Your Son Jesus wept at the death of his friend, Lazarus. We rejoice that you have destroyed the power of death forever in Christ's resurrection. Thank you for the new life and hope that you so freely give. We dedicate our offerings for the work of this church. May you wipe away the tears from the eyes of all who mourn in our community. We pray in your holy name ~ 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:

God of Grace and God of Glory

St. James (#287 Hymnal) St. Mark's (#569 Worship & Rejoice)

Benediction:

Loving God, we see your compassion revealed in the tears of Jesus for Lazarus his friend. We see your power of the Holy Spirit in the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Today, we ask forgiveness for our sins and through our Lord Jesus Christ, may we go forth signed and sealed as your beloved children ~ assured in our faith of an everlasting life with you. Go to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, all that you are, and all you will be. *Amen*.

Postlude

John 11:38-44 ESV

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

