

Sunday, November 20, 2022 Memorial Sunday St. Mark's/St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist Lori Roelse, Reader at St. Mark's

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: Sing Them Over Again To Me, Wonderful Words Of Life

St. James: Abide With Me

Call to Worship:

L: Lord, your grace is boundless and free; Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: Jesus, you made yourself poor, that we might become rich; Christ, have mercy.

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and keep us in eternal life.

P: Christ have mercy on us.

Unison Prayer:

Father God, ever faithful, ever true, ever present whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer, and shape our lives. We gather in your name; for the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; may your Holy Spirit be felt among us and within us. *Amen*.

Hymn of Praise:

St. Mark's (#81 Worship & Rejoice)

St. James (#21 Hymnal)

We Gather Together Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Young at Heart:

St. Mark's (#257 Worship & Rejoice)

What Wondrous Love Is This

St. James Choral Anthem:

Finally Home Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

Scripture Reading:

2 Corinthians 9:1-8

Message: Engage: Threshold of Giving

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Reading of the Names ~ In Memory Of and Lighting of Candles

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:

St. Mark's: Near To The Heart Of God

St. James: Safe In His Care

 \sim The offering is brought to the altar \sim

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Heavenly Father, by your Spirit you work in us both the desire and the strength to fulfill your purpose in our lives: grant us the grace of generous hearts and open hands that our living and our giving may be acceptable in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ~ 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. Mark's (#466 Worship & Rejoice) St. lames (#13 Binder) Take My Life and Let It Be Here I Am, Lord

Benediction:

May God, the Giver of all good gifts, pour out upon you his richest blessing that you may always have all that you need and that from his gracious abundance you might know the joy of generosity and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Go now to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, in all that you are, and in all you will be. To his glory and kingdom, *Amen*.

Postlude: St. Mark's: *March* St. James: *Praise Him*



2 Corinthians 9:1-8 ESV

Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them. But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

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