



Thanksgiving Eve, November 23, 2022
St. Mark's/St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor Ann Rodewald, Organist

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Prelude on Kremser

Call to Worship:

L: What mighty praise belongs to you, O God, for your acts of love and faithfulness toward us!

P: **In your mercy you hear our prayers, you forgive our sins, you provide for our needs.**

L: From one end of the earth to the other, you inspire worship and praise! Even nature celebrates your goodness.

P: **We, too, would offer our praise and thanksgiving for your mercy and your faithful love toward us.**

L: Receive our adoration, our confession, our thanksgiving.

P: **Through the power of Your Holy Spirit make your presence known among us that we may hear your Word and know your will.**

Unison Prayer:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, we worship his holy name. Our voices rise in earnest prayer, and we sing like never before. Lord, you're rich in love and you're slow to anger; your name is great, and your heart is kind. For all Your goodness we will keep on worshipping your holy name. Amen.

Hymn of Thanksgiving: #14

Now Thank We All Our God

Young at Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

Gracious Creator, you have given us so much, but too often we take those gifts for granted, or as something to which we are entitled.

You call us to live in caring community, but too often we place our wants and needs first, with those of others a distant second.

You call us to share Your gifts with the world around us, but we are worried that there may not be enough, and our worrying gets in the way of our sharing.

For all the times when we mistreat and misuse your gifts, for all the times we assume that we get what we have by ourselves, forgive us and lead us back to the path of wisdom.

...time of silent prayer...

Words of Assurance:

God is a gracious giver. God is gracious in forgiveness. God calls us to new patterns and new life. We are a forgiven people! Thanks be to God!

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.

The St. Mark's Choral Anthem:

Lord, Make Us Free
Kathy Jurk, Choir Director

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 23

Message:

The Lord is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Today we offer our thanksgiving and gratitude to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts. For the tables we share and the bread we partake of within our communities, within our families, within our homes, and for those serving in the military – within the base mess hall we give thanks.

For the hands of friendship that have been extended to us and the grace we have received, for your continual provision in our lives. Praise the Lord.

For the embrace of love, the mercies that are new at dawn and sustain us through the day, echoing in dark of the night. We are thankful.

For the gift of your Son and his blood poured out for the many and the new life that beats within us now. In all things, we give you thanks. May this be a day in which we set aside our differences and embrace one another. Great is the Lord; most worthy to be praised!

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

On the night when Jesus was betrayed, he had one last meal with his disciples. At that meal he took bread, gave thanks to you – God almighty, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying,

“Take, eat; this is my body given freely for you. Eat of this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, again he gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you drink it, remember me.”

In memory of Jesus Christ who gave himself freely; to honor and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we give praise and thanksgiving, in union with Christ's offering for us.

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Let the Holy Spirit be poured out on all who gather virtually, individually, or as a family. Let it be known that we are all of one family – sisters and brothers in Christ.

Let the Holy Spirit be poured out on these gifts of bread and wine/juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ.

Let us serve one another; serve in ministry to all the world and follow God's call upon our lives. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours almighty God, now and forever. *Amen.*

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 Response: #342

Rejoice, The Lord is King!

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:

Let All Things Now Living

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Lord, we thank for your faithfulness. Thank you that we can always trust in you. You are an abundant God and out of your great mercy you have given us so much. We give you this offering today. With it we worship you and give our whole selves to you. Please take it and use it for your kingdom and your glory. Extend and multiple its reach and influence we pray. May it be a great blessing to many. We ask all this in the powerful name of Jesus. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending: #72

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Benediction:

Thank you, Lord, on this day for our many good blessings and our many great friendships. Glory to you, O Lord. May you hear our prayer; guide us on forever. As we go into all of life's pathways may we know each day you are calling us onward. Go now to love and serve our Lord in all that you do, all that you are, and all that you will be - in his great name, *amen*.

Postlude:

Jubilate



Like us on Facebook



Check out our Website: www.stmstjucc.org

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com



PSALM 23 ESV

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.*

*Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.*



GPS

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: Psalm 103, Ephesians 5:19-21, 1Tim 4:4-5

It is traditional on Thanksgiving Day to tell and retell the story of the Pilgrims and the Indians and to talk about the harsh first winter they faced in the New World. Some tell the story with the children dressing up as Pilgrims in black hats and Indians with fringed shirts and moccasins. The Indians show the Pilgrims how to plant their corn or to hunt turkey and deer. The Pilgrims are thankful for these people helping them to survive and they share a grand feast together – a festival of thanksgiving. For Christians, the deepest root of our thanksgiving goes back to the Old World long before the Pilgrims, to a story as old as creation. Consider these words: *“God created man and woman for gratitude. They (and we) exist to appreciate God.”*

First, God created humanity for gratitude. The prime existence of humanity is to appreciate God. God created us to honor him by giving thanks.

Second, we have failed in appreciating God as we should. Ann Vaskamp, in her book on gratitude, said, *“From all of our beginnings, we keep reliving the Garden Story.”* Satan wanted more power, more glory, and a place in all of creation that rivaled or bettered that of God. In essence Satan is an ingrate – ungrateful for all God had given unto him. In many ways, the catalyst of sin is just that. Ingratitude. Un-thankfulness. Our fall from God’s grace centers around that we are not satisfied in God and in what God gives.

Third, the Son Jesus, entered into world and lived in perfect appreciation of the Father. The Son died on behalf of our chronic problems of ingratitude. Jesus – God made man – showed us the perfect life of thankfulness.

Finally, by faith in Jesus, we are redeemed. It means to atone and make amends for past actions, thoughts, deeds done or not done, for our sins. It’s forgiveness and salvation in that we are saved from our past. *Thanks be to God and amen.*

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