



Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them,

for it is the Lord your God who goes with you.
He will not leave you or forsake you.

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Second Advent Sunday

St. James/St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Organist: Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn Choir Director: Cindy Sohn

Advent Candle Lighting Readers: Sierra Bramstedt/Raymond Henschel

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: *Come Thou Long- Expected Jesus*

St. James: *Lift Up Your Heads*

Call to Worship:

L: Lift up your hearts, O People of God, for the Lord has looked kindly upon us and is sending his son, Immanuel.

P: He is raising up for us a mighty savior who will forgive our sins and grace us with courage to face evil.

L: God is showing the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath he swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that we need not fear, but serve him with courage.

P: We go before the Lord, following John the Baptist, to prepare Christ's way. Come, let us worship God and give thanks.

Opening Prayer:

God of our Lives, you are with us in every event: the highs and lows, a newborn child, the union of two in love, graduations, new opportunities, new careers as well as the let downs and disappointments life hands us. Help us this day to prepare for the most important event in our lives: the coming of your Son Jesus Christ who died for our sins and will come again.

The Reading for and Lighting of the Advent Candles:

Reader: On this second Sunday of Advent, as we think about the coming of Jesus Christ, we light the candle of peace.

(Light the first and second candle.)

Reader: Jesus Christ is our peace.
He is the Prince of Peace,
And the fruit of his presence is peace. (Isaiah 9:6; Galatians 5:22)

People: **Christ comes to bring justice, wholeness, and harmony to every relationship throughout all creation.
He wants to continually grant us peace in every way.**
(2 Thessalonians 3:16)

Reader: Jesus, we pray, guide our feet into the path of peace. (Luke 1:79)

Hymn of Praise:

St. Mark's: (#158 Worship & Rejoice)

St. James: (#93 The Hymnal)

Hand

*Blessed Be the God of Israel
Arise, the Kingdom is at*

Young at Heart:



St. James Choral Anthem:

Light of Peace

Scripture Reading:

Esther 4:12-17

Message:

The Gift of Courage

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Hymn of Response:

St. Mark's (#152 *Worship & Rejoice*)

Prepare the Way, O Zion

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: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

St. James: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" *Piano and Organ Duet*
by Cindy and Randy

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. Blessed be God forever. *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 (#66 *Worship & Rejoice*)

St. James (#100 *Hymnal*)

To God Be the Glory

Oh How Shall I Receive Thee

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. 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: *Behold He Comes*

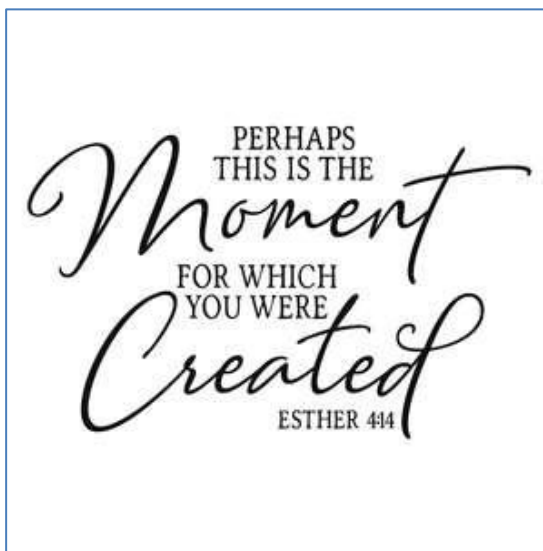
St. James: *Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts*

Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:

St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Esther 4:12-17 ESV

And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.



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