



December 5, 2021, Second Sunday of Advent

Building Fund Sunday

St. Mark's United Church of Christ

St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Organists: Kathy Jurk, Randy Sohn Director: Cindy Sohn

Readers: Lori Roelse/Deb LaDuke

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's: *Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying*

St. James: *Lift Up Your Heads*

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: O come, O come, Immanuel,

P: And be light for our darkness.

L: Be comfort in our grief, and a friend for our loneliness,

P: An oasis for our searching.

L: O come, O come, Immanuel,

Opening Prayer: (all together)

God in this season suspended between hope and fulfillment, let us never forget what you have done. May we be overwhelmed by your mercy, which flows in wave after wave. May we be honest about the darkness within us, and perceptive of the light around us. May we make straight the path for the Lord, that together we may see God's glory revealed. Let this be our Advent prayer. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise: (Insert of #109 Pilgrim People)

When God Is A Child

Young At Heart:



Advent Candle Lighting (The candle of Peace)

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.*

Pastor: Heavenly Light shining upon us, hear our prayers and our songs and know that we have gathered in your name to praise and worship you and give thanks for your love. May this time of worship be a balm upon our day. We know, O Lord, that the expectant day of Christmas is not a time that everyone looks forward to.

This may be the first Christmas away from home. The first time or an annual reminder of a loved one no longer with us. Not every child will cozy up to a Christmas tree with presents underneath it. Not every child will spend Christmas with their parents. Some parents will have to work, regardless of the most Holy Day. And some are overseas serving in the military - far from family. So, lighten our load Lord. Lift our spirits. Shine the light of Jesus Christ into our lives that we may know your love and grace no matter our situation.

People: To God be the glory for great things he has done. Praise the Lord and let all people rejoice!

Hymn of Assurance: (Insert of #41 Pilgrim People)

To God Be the Glory

Scripture Reading:

Malachi 3:1-4

Message: *I am sending my messenger to prepare the way*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

St. Mark's Hymn of Faith: (#89 Hymnal)
St. James Choir:

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

People's Prayer / 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.*

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: *Sweet Peace*
St. James: *Veni, Veni*

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

God of mercy and grace, we pray that the gifts we offer this morning be used to bring compassion to the chaos that is our world. We give these gifts in love, hoping they will heal some of the hurting; and as they do, make the crooked road straight for the coming of the Christ. May the hills that separate us from sisters and brothers be made flat and may the valleys of our isolation be raised up, so we will be ready to welcome the Christ as one. In that holy name, we pray. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending: (#99 Hymnal)

Rejoice, Rejoice

Benediction:

... To love and serve the Lord. *Amen.*

Postlude

St. Mark's: *Lift Up Your Heads*
St. James: *Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts*

Malachi 3:1-4 ESV

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.



ADOPT A FAMILY GIFTS are due next week Sunday.
They should be wrapped and attach the label telling who the gift is for and what is inside.



WE PREPARE THE WAY.....

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS:

St. James: Sunday, Dec. 19th, 10:30am

St. Mark's: Sunday, Dec. 19th, 5:00pm

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION,
DECEMBER 24TH , BOTH SERVICES ARE HELD AT ST. MARK'S:**

4:00pm Family Service

7:00pm Candlelight Service

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP, DECEMBER 25TH , WITH COMMUNION:

10:00am at St. James

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



This week's celebrations:

Birthdays:

December 7th – Benjamin Grunwald

10th – Brianne Vandoske, Scott Weinfenbach

11th – Jacob Grunwald

No Anniversaries this week

WELCOME!

To the parents of young children:

Relax! *God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house.*

- ❖ *Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage.*
- ❖ *Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastors, musicians and leaders.*
- ❖ *Sing the songs, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behaviors by mimicking you.*
- ❖ *If you have to leave the Worship Center with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."*

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

LOOKING AHEAD... NEXT SUNDAY, Dec. 12 ...
Christmas Fund Sunday

St. James: 9:00am Worship
Sunday School after 'Young at Heart' Message,
Play Practice 10-11:30am

St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship
Sunday School Program Practice, 9-10:30am
Cookie Exchange at St. Mark's for those who signed up

ST. JAMES VISON OF HOPE – Monday, Dec. 6th, 6:30pm

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY – Monday, Dec. 6th, 6:30pm

NO LUKE STUDY GROUP THIS WEEK

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE – Tues., Dec. 7th, 6:30pm

CONFIRMATION CLASS – Wed., Dec., 8th, 6-7:30pm, St. James

ST. MARK'S CHOIR PRACTICE – Wed., Dec. 8th, 7:00pm

GETTING AQUAINTED WITH YOUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP – Thursday, Dec. 9th, 6pm at St. Mark's

YOUTH GATHERING/CHRISTMAS PARTY – December 12th, St. James, 5:30-7:00. Bring a friend if you like, your favorite holiday appetizer (enough for at least 10 people), and a "white elephant" gift (something you have at home that you and your family no longer need, or something new \$5.00 or under) and please bring it wrapped :) Food, games, and fun!

RSVP by December 10 to schultzbrenda@gmail.com

BE SURE TO READ THE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE BACK OF TODAY'S WORSHIP BULLETIN.

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: James 1

What do you think of when you hear the words, “Give me that old time religion?” Do those words sweep you back to your childhood and going to church with your mother and father, grandmother and grandfather? Does it take you back further than that?

Dr. Ellsworth Kalas once told me that when he was a young man (he was born in the early 1920’s so this would have been 1935 and later) he could name significant preachers in every major town that would bring people flocking on Sunday morning. Filling the house to overflowing. Is this what springs to mind with “old time religion?”

Back to simpler days when life seemed so much easier. Granted in those days’ churches might not have had heating (other than a woodburning stove, perhaps), or indoor bathrooms. Women sat on one side of the church and men on the other. Children were seen and not heard.

Or as one missionary from parts of Africa once told me, his church was in a goat field. To have worship they first had to round up the goats and herd them out of the pasture.

What do you think of when you hear the words, “Give me that old time religion?”

Prayer: Lord, help us that our time of worship and praise be pleasing to you. Let our voices ring out in prayer and song. May our hearts feel changed in the presence of your Spirit. Our burdens be lifted and our faith increased. In the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

NOTES:

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